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# CASCADES AND COURAGE

The History of the Town of Vernon
and the City of Rockville
Connecticut

CASCADES

Compiled in leisure hours by
GEORGE S. BROOKES, Ph.D.

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# GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE

## THE TOWN OF BOLTON

Connecticut's Seal bears three vines representing the first three towns—Hartford, Windsor, and Wethersfield. Emigrants from Massachusetts, these pioneers were subject for the first year of their residence to the General Court of Massachusetts, but when they came to Connecticut they promptly desired to form a government according to their own ideas.

As long ago as the 31st day of May, 1638, the Rev. Thomas Hooker preached his now famous sermon on democratic principles of political government. Thomas Hooker had been dismissed from the Church of England by the Bishop of London in 1629 for nonconformity. He came to Boston in 1633, and after serving as pastor at Cambridge, he led a group of settlers to the banks of the Connecticut River and founded Hartford in 1636.

On January 14, 1639, the Freemen of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield assembled in Hartford to listen to Mr. Hooker as he propounded his philosophy of popular government. Deeply impressed by his new concepts, they adopted his principles as the basis of their government and drew up what is now called the Fundamental Orders or Constitution of Connecticut.

The five most important principles contained therein were:

1. All the authority of government comes directly from the people.
2. There shall be no taxation without representation.
3. The number of men that the towns shall choose to help make their laws shall be in proportion to the population of the town.
4. All Freemen who take an oath to be faithful to the State shall have the right to vote.
5. New towns may join the three original towns and live under the same government.

The town of Bolton was originally situated on the northeasterly edge of the town of Hartford. The first settler is not known. The date of its settlement was the May session of the General Court of 1718. Before incorporation it was known as Hartford Mountains or Hanover, "Mountains in sight of Hartford."

The name of Bolton was chosen from the Bolton in England, following a very common practice among the early settlers, as evi-

denced by the name of many of our neighboring towns such as Coventry, Andover, Mansfield, Stafford, Enfield and Hartford.

The town was about eleven miles in length from north to south and from three to five miles in breadth from east to west. A census of the town taken in 1756 showed a population of 951 whites, 11 Negroes, and one Indian. In 1761, five years later, there were 840 whites, 11 Negroes, and no Indian. This population was so distributed that Bolton proper was larger than the North Bolton section.

The town and Freemen's meetings were held alternately in each section, so that many inhabitants were compelled to travel long distances to attend such meetings. Consequently a large number of aged and infirm people could not attend.

Moreover, the two societies were divided by nature—a mountain stood between them which rendered communication very difficult and made it inconvenient to transact the business of the Town. The Selectmen were obliged to travel six or seven miles to confer on town matters.

Further, the mountainous land was poor for cultivation and settlement, and the fact that the two societies were nearly equal in numbers produced jealousy among the inhabitants.

On June 4, 1795, an interesting, although unsuccessful, Memorial was presented to the General Assembly by Samuel Carver and Saul Alvord, agents for the first Society in the town of Bolton, and Oliver King, agent for the second Society in said town, asking that the second Society be incorporated into a separate town to be called Richmond. This author suggests that the name, Richmond, might have been born of the memory of the pleasant market-town of Richmond, near York, England. It is significant that John Warburton and Peter Dobson, who figure large in the history of manufacture in Vernon, came from Blackburn, a few miles only from this town of Richmond, England. However, this petition was not passed.

Thirteen years later, at a Town Meeting legally warned and held in Bolton on the 18th day of April, 1808 A.D., another petition was presented, the name of Vernon taking the place of Richmond. Ichabod Warner Esq. was chosen Moderator.

VOTED: To petition the General Assembly in May next to divide the Town of Bolton into two distinct Towns by the Parish line.
VOTED: That there be but one Representative from each Town respectively.

VOTED: That in case the Town shall be divided, the whole of the Record Books shall belong to the First Society which will still retain the name of Bolton. That the Weights and Measures shall be equally divided between the Towns according to their just value. That Hannah Goodrich, one of the present poor, shall belong to the north or new made Town and that Eunice Marshal and James Fowler, who shall become poor hereafter, shall belong to and be supported by that Town where they did or shall live and that the division of the poor and expense shall take place at the time the Town shall be divided; and all Debts now contracted shall be equally paid by each Town and taxes already granted shall be collected and disposed of according to the original design.

VOTED: That Messrs. Saul Alvord and Oliver King be Agents to carry the foregoing votes into effect.

Attest: Oliver King, Town Clerk.

Oliver King was for many years prominently identified with Vernon's affairs. He served as the first town clerk and treasurer, and held those offices for an extended period. It is said that while he lived no other man was sent to the Legislature from the town.

Saul Alvord was an extensive landowner, a saddler by trade, and later kept a tavern directly west from the Bolton Church. Early in life he took a leading position in town affairs, was often a member of the Legislature, selectman of the town, and served as first postmaster of Bolton. Mr. Alvord was always known as "Captain" Alvord and never laid aside the custom of dress of the Revolutionary period.

At a Town Meeting legally warned and held in Bolton on the 21st day of November, 1808, the following vote was passed as herein recorded:

VOTED: That Saul Alvord and Elijah Talcott be a Committee to join a Committee of the Town of Vernon to establish the line between the Towns of Bolton and Vernon.

Discarding the name of Richmond, the inhabitants apparently preferred the name Vernon. We can only surmise that the warm memory of the Father of our Country, who had died but nine years before, led the people of the new town to enshrine in their common life the name of Washington's home.

## TOWN OF VERNON INCORPORATED

The town of Vernon was set off from the town of Bolton, and by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut held at New Haven on the second Thursday of October, 1808, was incorporated into a town by itself. The following is a true copy of the records:

"Upon the petition of Oliver King and Saul Alvord, of Bolton, in the county of Tolland, agents for said town of Bolton, in their own names, and in the names and behalf of the rest of the inhabitants of said town of Bolton,—showing to this assembly that said town is about eleven miles in length from north to south, and from three to five miles in width from east to west, and is divided into two ecclesiastical societies, and that from the situation and circumstances of the inhabitants of said town, the same ought to be divided into two towns by the society lines; and that all questions respecting the debts, poor, bridges, and all matters which might arise in consequence of a division of said town, have been amicably settled and adjusted. Praying for an act of assembly to divide said town as aforesaid and to allow each town as aforesaid and to allow each town one representative only, as by Petition on file dated the 3d day of May, A.D. 1808.

"This petition was brought to the General Assembly holden at Hartford in May last, and thence by legal continuance, to this Assembly, with an order to advertise notice of the pendency of the same, which order has been compiled with and no opposition being made against the prayer of said petition and the facts stated in the same being proved—

"Resolved, by this Assembly, that the inhabitants living within the limits of the society of North Bolton, in said town of Bolton, be and they hereby are incorporated into and made a town by the name of Vernon; and that they and their successors, inhabitants within said limits, are, and shall forever remain a town and body politic with the rights, privileges and immunities to other towns belonging, excepting that they shall elect only one representative to the General Assembly and the lines and limits of said society shall be the lines and limits of said town of Vernon.

"And it is further resolved, that said town of Vernon shall hold their first town meeting at the meeting house in said Vernon on the third Monday of November next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, to choose their town officers for the year ensuing;—and said meeting shall be warned by posting a notification to the effect on the sign post in said Vernon ten days before said third Monday of November, which notification shall be signed by Oliver King, Esquire, who shall be the moderator of said meeting; and in case the said King shall fail to perform the duty hereby assigned to him, the same may be performed by any other justice of the peace in any town adjoining said town of Vernon—

"And it is further resolved, that said town of Bolton shall hereafter elect no more than one representative to a session of the General Assembly.

"A true copy of Record, examined by

"Samuel Wyllys, Secretary."

## THE FREEMEN OF THE TOWN OF VERNON

In those early days, in Connecticut, universal suffrage was unknown. There were severe restrictions surrounding the ballot. At the age of 16, all male persons could take the oath of fidelity to the State. The requirements for becoming a Freeman follow:

A Freeman, at least 21 years of age, possessed of freehold estate to the value of 40 shillings per annum or 40 pounds personal estate in the general list of estates in that year wherein they desire to be admitted Freeman, being of quiet and peaceful behavior, and producing a certificate thereof from the selectmen of the town that they are qualified to take the Freemen's oath which must be done in open Freeman's meeting, but previous to this they must have taken the oath of fidelity to the State.

## THE OATH OF A FREEMAN

Being by the Providence of God an Inhabitant within the Jurisdiction of Connecticut, do acknowledge myself to be subject to the Government thereof, and do swear by the great and fearful name of the everliving God, to be true and faithful unto the same, and do submit both my person and estate thereunto, according to all the wholesome laws and orders that there are, or hereafter shall be there made, and established by lawful authority, and that I will neither plot nor practice any evil against the same, nor consent to any that shall so do, but will timely discover the same to lawful authority there established; and that I will, as I am in duty bound, maintain the honor of the same and of the lawful magistrates thereof, promoting the public good of it, whilst I shall so continue an inhabitant there; and whensoever I shall give my vote or suffrage touching any matter which concerns this commonwealth being called thereunto, will give it as in my conscience I shall judge, may conduce to the best good of the same, without respect of persons or favor of any man. So help me God in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Taken from old Bolton Records

In 1808 there were 108 inhabitants of the town of Vernon who had met the requirements and had become Freemen. They were the following:

Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg
Jonathan Smith
Jonathan Chapman
Ezekiel Olcott
Ozias Grant
Roger Loomis
John Payne
Alexander Kinney
Phineas Chapman
James Thrall
Samuel Root
Elijah Skinner
Oliver King
Reuben King
John Driggs
Joshua Pearl
Thomas Chapman
Reuben Skinner
Soloman Perrin
Nathaniel Rogers
Benjamin Talcott, Jr.
Caleb Parsons
Leonard Rogers
Ephraim Tucker
Jabez Cheesbrough
Elijah Hammond
Abraham Whedon
Roger Darte
Eli Hammond
Samuel Talcott
Joseph Hyde
Cornelius Roberts
Phineas Talcott
Habb Wyles
Wareham Grant
Jacob Talcott
Asher Isham
Thomas W. Kellogg
Ebenezer Hunt
Scottoway Hinkley
Alexander McLean
Lemuel Abbott
Erastus Kinney
John Warburton
Aaron Eaton
Jonah Sparks
Abel Driggs
John Bingham
Ezekiel Baker
Elijah Skinner, Jr.
Augustus Grant
Jesse Miner
Ebenezer Kellogg, Jr.
Oliver Hunt
John Darte
Benjamin Talcott
David Smith
Elijah Tucker
Ashael Webster
Amos Jones
Ebenezer Bivins
David Smith, Jr.
Ebenezer Chapman
Roswell Smith
Irad Fuller
Reuben Sage
Levi Darte
Daniel Root
John Walker
Lemuel King
Leavitt Millard
Elnathan Grant
Justus Talcott
Stephen Fuller
Joseph Loomis
Thaddeus Fitch
Alvan Talcott
Elijah Payne
Simeon Cooley
Daniel Daniels
Ezekiel Olcott, Jr.
Normand Walker
Shubael Sparks
Russell Thrall
Samuel Lyman
Warren Kinney
Lebbeus P. Tinker
Delano Abbott
John N. Hall
Francis McLean
Elliott Palmer
Daniel Fuller
Joshua Pearl, Jr.
Hosea Brownson
Curtis Crane
John Chapman
Lee L. Rogers
Chester King
Oliver H. King
Herman Hyde
John Cadey
Russell King
Hosea Tucker
Jameson Cheesebrough
Ashael Cadey
Russell Cadey
Reuben Sage, Jr.
Ozias Bissell

These, then, were the legal voters who were called to the first meeting of the Town of Vernon.

## FIRST TOWN MEETING IN TOWN OF VERNON

The first town meeting of Vernon was held according to vote at the Meeting House on the third Monday in November, 1808. Following is a copy of the proceedings of the meeting, culled from the records:

At a town meeting legally warned and held in Vernon on the third Monday of November, A.D. 1808, Oliver King was made Moderator in said meeting:

Oliver King was chosen Town Clerk for the ensuing year.

Oliver King was chosen Town Treasurer for the year ensuing.

Cornelius Roberts, Oliver Hunt and Lemuel King were chosen selectmen for the year ensuing.

Constables—Francis McLean to collect the state tax; Ebenezer Kellogg, Jr.

Grand Jurors—Alexander McLean and Elijah Skinner, Jr.

Lifters—Scottoway Hinkley and Ebenezer Kellogg, Jr.

Tything—John Chapman and Thomas W. Kellogg.

Surveyors of Highway—Ebenezer Chapman, Jameson Cheesebrough and Alvan Talcott.

Haywards—Elijah Skinner, Jr., Eli Hammond.

Pound Keeper—Cornelius Roberts.

Fence Viewers—Irad Fuller and Solomon Perrin.

Voted—A Tax of one cent on a dollar on the last August list to defray Town charges.

Voted—That swine have liberty to run at large with a ring in their nose.

Voted—That the Selectmen divide the districts and assess the labor on the Highways.

Voted—That a warning put on the sign post in the Town at least six days previous by the proper Authority be legal warning for a Town Meeting.

Voted—That the Selectmen meet with and settle accounts with the Selectmen of the Town of Bolton.

Voted—That this meeting be adjourned to be opened immediately after the Freemen's Meeting in April next.

Test: Oliver King, Town Clerk.

Two years later a similar meeting transacted the following business:

December 3, 1810

Voted that swine have liberty to run at large on the highways and eommons with a ring in the nose.

Voted that the plaees for setting up warnings for Town meetings in future shall be as follows, viz. one on the sign post—one on a post near Caleb Parsons' House, one on or near the house of Lemuel King—one on or near the sehoolhouse in the southeast distriet—one on a post at the parting of the roads north of Jonathan Smith's house and one on a post near the sehoolhouse in the southwest district.

Voted that no horse or horse-kind, mule or mules shall be allowed to go at large upon the highways or eommons in said Town from and after first day of April next.

That no goose or geese shall be suffered to go at large on the highways or commons in said Town.

# THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

## THE MEETING HOUSE OF BOLTON

The Town of Bolton was incorporated in the year 1720, and on March 27, 1721, the first meeting was held to plan for the erection of a Meeting House. The committee appointed to secure a minister learned that the already famous Jonathan Edwards, tutoring at Yale, was preaching on Sundays to a Presbyterian congregation in New York City, and early in the year 1723 called him to the Bolton Church. This call was renewed in November of that same year, and Rev. Jonathan Edwards accepted the call. But Dexter, in his "Yale Biographies," states that "from some unexplained reason, the arrangement was not carried out." That must have been a disappointment to the small Bolton Society.

However, in the year 1725, Rev. Thomas White was called, and for the long period of thirty-five years served as a faithful minister.

## NORTH BOLTON PETITION

In October, 1760, the General Assembly of Connecticut granted to a number of inhabitants of the north part of Bolton, and the east part of the Second Society of Windsor, a petition to be made a distinct Ecclesiastical Society, with certain bounds and limits and named North Bolton.

On November 4, 1760, John Dart of North Bolton, constable, commanded to warn a Society Meeting, to be held at the dwelling house of David Allis on Wednesday, November 12th at 1 P.M.

Per Thomas Pitkin, Just. Peace.

On November 12, 1760, First Meeting of the Society, Isaac Jones, Moderator. John Chapman chosen clerk and treasurer. Titus Olcott, Moses Thrall and Aaron Strong, Society Committee: "Voted that the present Committee shall invite Mr. Bulkley Olcott to preach with us upon probation." Voted to hold the Sabbath Day meeting at David Allis' dwelling house till 1st May next.

November 28, 1760, voted to build a meeting house, to be 50 x 40 ft. with 24 ft. posts. "Voted to bord with oak bords on the studs, all round sd. meeting house, and to clabbord with oak clabbords." Voted to send to Mr. Trasse, of Norwich, to preach

THE OLD MEETING HOUSE AT NORTH BOLTON
Opened for Divine Worship June 20, 1762

with sd. Society a few Sabbaths. The Society Committee to procure preaching for the year ensuing.

Voted "to send for ye County Surveiar to settle ye line between North Bolton and Elinton Society, and also to plan and find a Senter for North Bolton Society."

January 27, 1761—Voted to apply to the County Court for a Committee to affix a place to build a Meeting House. Mr. Buckley Olcott again invited.

March 10, 1761—Voted to apply to the County Court for another committee to affix a place to build a Meeting House. Voted to meet at David Allis' house this summer season.

September 23, 1761—Voted to apply to the General Assembly for a Committee to affix a place to build.

November 16, 1761—"Voted to hire a candidate to preach the Gospel to us ye year insewing." Voted to meet at David Allis' until further notice. (Annual Meeting)

December 31, 1761—Voted sd. meeting house to be 46 x 36 ft. with 22 ft. posts. John Chapman, David Allis, and Seth King appointed building committee.

March 10, 1762—Voted to send to ye Association for advice in order for calling a candidate upon probation. A committee appointed to apply to the heirs of Samuel Bartlett for a building lot of half an acre. Voted to shingle sd. meeting house with chestnut shingles.

The site chosen was at the crossing of the highways, long since discontinued, and is now marked by a white wooden post four feet high and four inches in diameter on the south side of the highway, in the rear of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Marcham, one-half mile east of the present meeting house.

March 29, 1762—Voted to call Mr. Ebenezer Kellogg upon probation in order for settlement.

May 6, 1762—Meeting House raised.

June 20, 1762—First met in the Meeting House for divine worship.

July 1, 1762—Voted to call Mr. Ebenezer Kellogg to settle in ye work of ye ministry in sd. Society. Voted to give him £55 the first year and so to rise by £1 yearly to £65. Also, £100 settlement at the end of one year after his ordination, and £50 at the end of the next year.

September 9, 1762—Salary voted, £60 to increase £1 yearly till it reaches £70.

(The above meeting was held at the Meeting House.)

October 7, 1762—Voted to accept Mr. Ebenezer Kellogg's answer dated October 7, 1762.

November 22, 1762—Society Meeting held at the Meeting House (Annual Meeting).

December 13, 1764—Voted to accept the Meeting House Committee account for building the meeting house.

Voted to allow the whole of the rate that was made upon Samuel Bartlett's Estate, late of Bolton, deceased, for defraying the charges of building the Meeting House, and also half the rate that David Smith, Collector, had against said estate, for half an acre of land given from the heirs by deed to the Society, to build the meeting house upon.

December 12, 1768—Voted the Committee to provide a lock and key and bolts to fasten up the meeting house. The Meeting House was not furnished with pews till 1770 nor plastered till 1774.

Reverend Ebenezer Kellogg was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, April 5, 1737, graduated from Yale College in 1757, studied

theology under the Rev. David Judson of Newton, Connecticut, and was licensed to preach May 28, 1760. He did not make a public profession of religion until he was twenty-one years of age. Affectionately known as "Priest" Kellogg, a scion of that sturdy stock which has given many distinguished men to the country, strong physically and mentally, he held his people with a vigorous hand and a lucid mind. A Puritan himself, he persuaded his people to become Puritans also.

The Lord's Day began according to the Hebrew manner at sunset Saturday night, because "the evening and the morning were the first day" and ended Sunday at sunset. And woe to the luckless new comer who drove out of the village after sundown Saturday night or drove into it before sunset Sabbath evening. Before sunset Saturday night the mill was stopped and every room was cleared by busy workers. And on Sabbath evening busy cloth packers prepared an invoice of goods for the early Monday morning team, market-bound. For the young people Sunday evening was courting time.

The saintly Ebenezer Kellogg always read his lengthy sermons. They were serious discourses, carefully setting forth the most important doctrines and duties of religion. The theology of the First Church was stern in theory and strict in practice. There were seasons of uncommon spiritual awakening and influence in the years 1772, 1782, 1800, 1809, 1815. The children respected him, and many called him "father."

On the completion of fifty years of faithful service he gave an historical address, but not one of the original members of the church was present to hear the discourse, due to death and removal from the parish. Like a heavenly benediction upon his work were his own words on the occasion of the fifty-fifth anniversary of his ordination:

> "Time in its nature is fleeting. It bears all the living along with it. As to myself, the time of my departure is near at hand. And in view of the prospect of that solemn day, I am supported with a believing hope that I trust in my all-sufficient Savior, and that I have not labored altogether in vain among you."

Less than four months before his death he recorded with his own hand the last admission to the church during his lifetime, Anno Domini, 1817, Eliza, wife of his grandson, George Kellogg, recom-

mended by Rev. E. Cook of Orford, (now Manchester.)

Ebenezer Kellogg died at the age of 81 years, and was buried in the ancient burying ground, half a mile east of the first meeting house, an acre consecrated for the burial of the dead. It was laid out many years before the house was erected. Here is the inscription on the stone erected in his honor:

Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg, died
Sept. 3rd, 1817, in the 81st year
Of his age, and 55th year
Of his ministry in this place.

"In yonder sacred meeting house he spent his breath,
Now silent, senseless, here he sleeps in death.
These lips again shall wake and then declare
A Long amen to truths they published there."

The early interest of the Society in singing and singing schools is remarkable. On November 16, 1761, two choristers were chosen; On November 21, 1799, $45 was voted for the support of singing in public worship; On January 28, 1818, Reuel Thrall was employed by the Society Committee to assist the singers for not more than ten days before Mr. Ely's ordination; and on May 31, 1824, it was voted to start a subscription for money to procure Mr. Brace to prepare the singers for Mr. Benedict's installation.

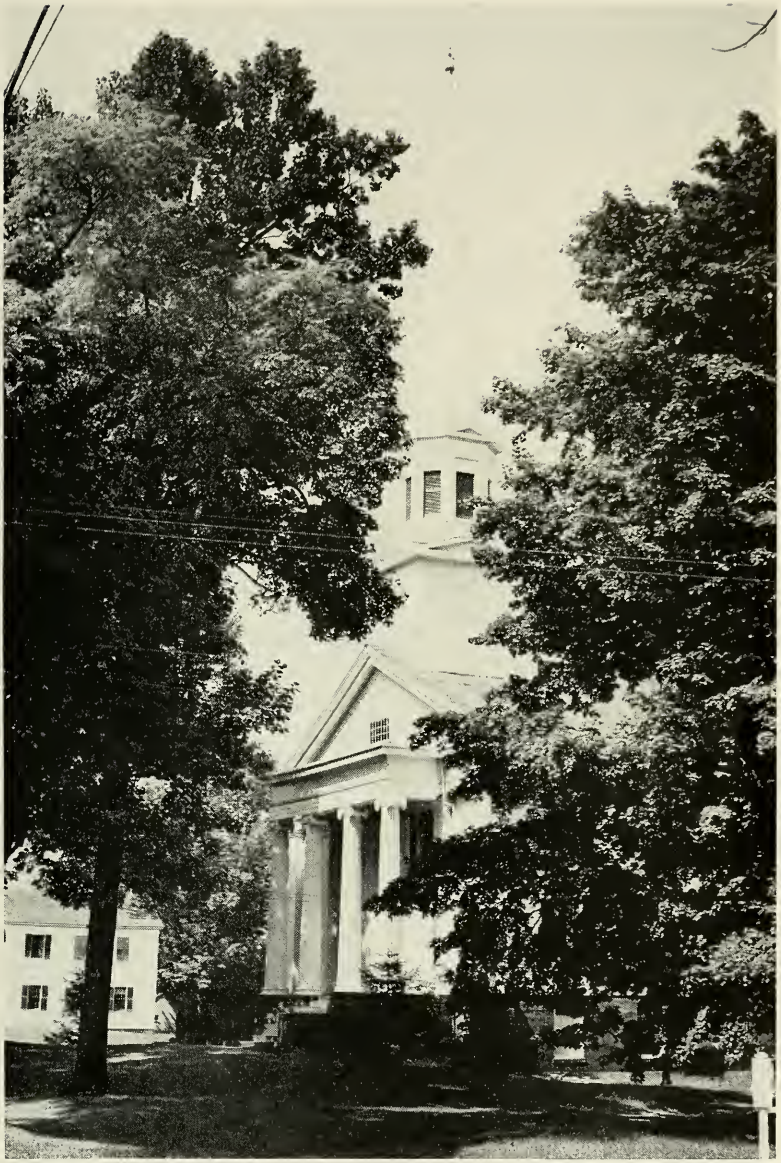
John Cady was first chorister for thirty years before the year 1820. He owned a violin which is still in existence. Reuben Skinner and John Skinner, Jr., followed Cady.

## THE CHURCH AT VERNON

The second pastor of the historic church was Rev. William Ely, of Saybrook, Connecticut. He was ordained March 11, 1818, and was dismissed February 21, 1822. He established the Sabbath School in May of that year, one of the earliest in Tolland County.

The Rev. Amzi Benedict was installed June 30, 1824, and during his ministry of six years the church at Vernon was erected.

The subscribers at the request of the committee of the Socicty met December 14, 1824, at Mr. Collins' Inn on the subject of fixing on a place for erecting a Meeting House, and finally determined and fixed upon a spot on which said mecting house may be erected, being on land of Francis McLean, Esq., on the west side of the Hartford



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON
Dedicated April 4, 1827

Turnpike Road between his dwelling house and the blacksmith's shop of Capt. Roberts about six rods west of said turnpike road, and between the second and third rows of apple trees from the south side of a young orchard, having stuck a stake on said spot.

Samuel Pitkin,
Elisha Stearns,
John Hall, Committee.

Vernon, December 14, 1824.

The Society proceeded with due deliberation to make arrangements for building, and adopted "Articles of Agreement" for a subscription for raising the necessary funds, subscriptions not to be binding unless $6,000 should be subscribed by the first of May, 1826. The church was erected in 1826, and the builders were Messrs. Whitmarsh & Shepard, Springfield, Massachusetts.

The house was dedicated April 4, 1827. We found an old copy of the order of services:

Invocation and Reading the Scriptures
Chorus by the Choir—"O Praise God"
Dedicatory Prayer—Rev. Amzi Benedict
Singing by the Congregation—"Old Hundredth"
Chorus—"One Thing Have I Desired"
Sermon by the Pastor—Genesis XXVIII, 17, "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven"
Chorus—"I was Glad when they said unto me"
Concluding Prayer
Hymn
Chorus
Benediction by the Pastor

The music was under the direction of Mr. Salmon Phelps, of East Hartford, who had instructed the members during the preceding winter. It is said that the Dedicatory Prayer by Rev. Amzi Benedict was long remembered as being peculiarly solemn and impressive, "as if he were talking face to face with God."

According to Rev. Increase N. Tarbox, then a juvenile resident of Vernon, and later a famous Doctor of Divinity, "two or three days were occupied with the raising." At a centennial celebration of Tolland County, July 4, 1876, Dr. Tarbox referred to the Dedication of Vernon in 1827 in poetic form:

"The speaker pauses here to state
That in his humble way
He helped to raise the meeting house
Which Vernon has today;
He helped by sipping at the punch,
Which flowed in large supplies,
By tossing pins for men to catch,
And eating of the pies."

The day following the dedication all the pews, excepting those reserved, were sold for $7,700, exceeding by $700 the total cost of the building.

The pews and slips were sold, and held as the individual property of the owners, till about 1850, when most of the pew holders relinquished their rights in favor of the Ecclesiastical Society. A few slips were bought by the Society, and a few remained as individual property.

The Rev. Chester Humphrey was ordained October 4, 1832. He died on April 18, 1843, at the age of forty years. The Rev. Albert Smith was installed on May 21, 1845.

In 1851, preliminary to a thorough remodeling of the building, the structure was moved nearly its length back from the turnpike road and about its width away from the highway on the northeast side. A portion was added and the symmetrical spire, so long a pleasant landmark for miles around, with its white finger pointing heavenward, but recently found needful to sacrifice for safety of life and property, was removed. The church was rededicated about the first of September, 1852. The sermon was preached by Rev. Albert Smith, D.D., pastor of the church at that time.

The Centennial celebration of the erection of the Meeting House was observed on September the 25th and 26th, 1926. On Saturday, the 25th, there was a Pilgrimage to the Old Cemetery and site of the First Meeting House; an organ recital by Dr. William Churchill Hammond, a native of Rockville, a Banquet Supper, and a Concert by Manchester Salvation Army Band.

On Sunday, September 26, addresses were given at the morning service by Senator Hiram Bingham, Secretary D. Brewer Eddy, D.D., and Dr. Rockwell Harmon Potter. Greetings were brought by Miss Elizabeth Hammond, of Guatemala, representing the missionary line of the church; Greetings from His Excellency, Gov-

ernor John H. Trumbull, and Dr. Arthur H. Smith, who was born in the parsonage and became a missionary in China and an author of note and authority. In the afternoon an Historical address was given by Dr. Sherrod Soule, and at 7 p.m. eight churches participated with brief reminiscent remarks.

The records show that the salary of the

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. William Ely was | $600 |
| Rev. Amzi Benedict | $500 |
| Rev. Chester Humphrey | $500 |
| Rev. Albert Smith, D.D. | $600 |
| Rev. Mark Tucker, D.D. | $700 |

The 175th anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Vernon was observed October 8-10, 1937. Historical papers were presented on Grandmother Bolton, born 1725, by Samuel Alvord; Mother Vernon, born 1762, by Oliver Driggs; Granddaughter Rockville, born 1837, Mrs. Walter H. Skinner; Granddaughter Vernon Methodist born 1852, Mrs. W. J. Stephens; Granddaughter Talcottville, born 1867, John G. Talcott.

There were greetings from former pastors and an historical address by Dr. Sherrod Soule, Hartford, Connecticut.

The hurricane of 1938 blew away the steeple of the Vernon Church. The congregation was distressed. Then unexpectedly word came from Allyn and Robert Ford, of Minneapolis, that they were interested in providing a memorial to their father and mother, who had lived in Vernon, and had been married there in 1860.

Mr. Wm. Brazer, of New York City, an authority on Colonial architecture and a brother-in-law of Mr. Ford, came up at their request, looked over the situation, drew plans, and secured bids. And a new steeple was dedicated as a memorial to Luther Ford, who joined this church in 1867 with his wife, Sara Carpenter Ford. They were married here and were active in the work of the church until they moved to Minneapolis.

During the years that have followed since the ending of World War II a great change has taken place in the environs of the old Mother Church in Vernon Center. In 1903, at the conclusion of a "Manual of the First Congregational Church" there appear the following words:

> And now after the noble record of the past, the fate of so many of the hill town churches, from causes that are inevitable, has fallen upon the old mother church, that of

> a contracted parish, greatly lessened constituency and meagre material resources. . . . The service of the remaining few, is often heroic, in its self-sacrificing fidelity; and soul-saving endeavor freshens its strength, by contact with His life, who has said "I am with you always even unto the end."

With the growth away from Vernon Center, and with the weakness of what had once been a mighty Church, there is no difficulty in understanding that the few who remained in the area felt this was "the end," the end of a mighty history in an area where the Church had done its task.

But recent history was and is to prove otherwise. With the steady flow of population out from the city environs of Hartford, with the great influx of employment in the East Hartford area, and with the completion of an excellent four lane highway through Vernon to Hartford, and the Charter Oak Bridge, a high priority has been placed upon life in these rural areas. This has meant that since the War the area which is served by "the old Mother Church" has become to a great extent a suburb to the Greater Hartford area. Hundreds of folks have moved out of the noise of city into the quiet of Vernon, building their homes along the roads in the village or in more instances locating in one of the many building developments in the area.

The obvious result of this situation has been the absorption of new life into town and Church, quite reversing the judgment of doom laid down by the unknown author of the manual quoted above. The Church has turned a long corner. Under the pastorate of Mr. Griswold the Church reached forward to some of the glory and strength of former days, and with the growth which continues at an increasing rate, it would seem that this should continue to be the case. Great was the faith and courage of the few who carried on in seeming sight of "the end." But the end has not come, and it has rather proved to be "the beginning," the beginning of a new era in the history of "the old mother Church" which was the cradle of our Town of Vernon.

Sufficiently great is this "new beginning" that it has proved necessary for the Church to embark upon an expansion program. The great huge meeting house so long considered a white elephant far beyond the needs of the dwindled parish is now thoroughly inadequate, in particular for the Church School which cannot be accommodated in the present facilities. Preliminary plans have

been laid down and approved for the erection of a Parish House which will serve primarily for the Christian training of the youth of the Church.

## PASTORS OF VERNON MEETING HOUSE

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg | 1762-1817 |
| Rev. William Ely | 1818-1822 |
| Rev. Amzi Benedict | 1824-1830 |
| Rev. David L. Hunt | 1830-1832 |
| Rev. Chester Humphrey | 1832-1843 |
| Rev. Albert Smith, D.D. | 1845-1854 |
| Rev. Mark Tucker, D.D. | 1857-1863 |
| Rev. Isaac Brush | 1865-1867 |
| Rev. Reuben Stafford Kendall | 1867-1871 |
| Rev. Amos Sheffield Cheesebrough, D.D. | 1871-1876 |
| Rev. Samuel G. W. Rankin | 1876-1879 |
| Rev. Bela N. Seymour | 1879-1883 |
| Rev. Nathan Gibbs Axtell | 1883-1885 |
| Rev. Wilder Smith | 1885-1886 |
| Rev. Andrew McIntyre | 1886-1888 |
| Rev. Samuel Forbes | 1888-1889 |
| Rev. Luther Humphrey Barber | 1889-1893 |
| Rev. N. M. Larned | 1893-1894 |
| Rev. Homer T. Beach | 1894-1896 |
| Rev. Frederick Alvord | 1896-1897 |
| Rev. W. W. Davidson | 1897-1898 |
| Rev. A. Ferdinand Travis | 1898-1900 |
| Rev. William H. Teel | 1900-1905 |
| Rev. C. R. Small | 1905-1906 |
| Rev. Nelson H. Wehrhan | 1906-1908 |
| Rev. J. C. Willard | 1909-1910 |
| Rev. A. A. Marquadt | 1910-1912 |
| Rev. W. O. Shewmaker | 1912-1913 |
| Rev. H. C. Beebe | 1914-1916 |
| Rev. H. C. McKnight | 1917-1919 |
| Rev. C. E. Crawford | 1920-1922 |
| Rev. H. C. Mayhew | 1923 |
| Rev. Milton Davis | 1924 |
| Rev. Edward Eells | 1925-1927 |
| Rev. Allan Gates | 1927-1929 |
| Rev. W. F. Tyler | 1930-1940 |
| Rev. Sterling White | 1941 |
| Rev. Norman Weed | 1942 |
| Rev. William Booth | 1943-1945 |
| Rev. Woodbury Stowell | 1945-1947 |
| Rev. Brendon Griswold | 1947-1949 |
| Rev. George B. Higgins | 1949 |

## COURAGEOUS BEGINNINGS

The history of the Town of Vernon is the story of Cascades and Courage. Aided by these pages we turn back the dial of time and learn of the group of men who in wisdom laid their plans, overcame many obstacles, and brought the town conspicuous success. A number of intelligent, persevering, far-seeing men, who worked with stout hearts, and by their earnest purpose laid the foundation of prosperity for the town and city, came from far and near. They had no secret formula for swift success. Only by a painstaking self-denial and the exercise of great sagacity did they attain success. They had the spirit of the frontiersmen and pioneers.

The early years of the Town unfold the story of the courage unlimited of the Kings, the Grants, the McLeans, the Dobsons, John Warburton, and the Talcotts.

The King family were extensive land owners, possessing most of the Tankeroosen Valley. Through the courtesy of members of the King family, we are able to quote from copies of important family papers. One of these is an instructive letter from Hezekiah King to his son Hezekiah, concerning the coming of his grandfather, Captain Hezekiah King, to Bolton and Vernon about the year 1750.

My Dear Son:

Agreeable to your request I write what little I know of my ancestral relations, remembering that what I have recorded beyond my Grandfather is tradition.

Our ancestors originally came from England and settled in region of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. My great-grandfather removed from there when a young man to the southern part of Massachusetts bordering on Rhode Island. My grandfather, whose name was Hezekiah King, when about 20 years of age, emigrated west into an almost unsettled country and located in what was known as the unsettled land of Connecticut. By the Colonial Laws anyone could take up one thousand acres by paying the surveyor and Recorder their fees amounting, I think, to ten pounds. On this tract of land of 1000 acres my grandfather built a cabin, cleared up some few acres and returned to his father's to spend the winter, returning the second summer with some additional force, he started

his farming operations by sowing wheat, perfecting his cabin, and the 2d spring he came on with a wife and remained permanently. The Log Cabin in which he lived the first few years was about ¼ of a mile east from where I was born. What we know now as the Old Homestead was built by my grandfather, but greatly enlarged by my father. My grandfather was twice married. My father was a son of the 2d marriage and his name was Lemuel. There were four children by the first marriage and five by the last, three sons and one daughter by the first (the eldest son was named Hezekiah) three sons and two daughters by the last. The names of my father's brothers and sisters were Samuel, Else, Lemuel, Clarissa and William. The place is now Vernon. When first organized it was called North Bolton; in other words, it was a town without a name, and attached to Bolton for Legislative and Judicial purposes. From conversation with my father I should infer my grandfather was a man of more than ordinary note and influence in the community, was a Magistrate and what at that time was considered a high honor, was Captain of the Militia Co. On his tombstone is "Capt. Hezekiah King," his age and the year of his death. I once went to his grave in company with my father, remember well the circumstance, although a boy of perhaps 12 or 15 years. It was in the old cemetery which has been abandoned I suppose for 40 years. My grandfather died a few years preceding the Revolutionary War. My father was in the Army at the time the British had possession of New York, and at the time the American Army were encamped at Horse Neck and that vicinity was wounded in one of the many midnight attacks that were constantly going on from marauding parties of the British Army who were out plundering the neighborhood and intercepting supplies for the American Army. My father was at Horseneck at the time Putnam rode down the steps that you have heard so often of. His wounds were of a serious nature. He lay in the hospital for six months at Horseneck, was then brought home to his mother's and was three years from the time he was wounded before he was able to bear his weight, and you I presume recollect he lost the use of the knee joint, or in other words he had a stiff knee. My grandmother's maiden name was Thrall. She lived many years after my grandfather's death. My father retained the Old Homestead, and my grandmother lived and died at an advanced age a member of his family. My mother's maiden name was Bronson. Her ancestors were what are generally known as Scotch Irish. They settled originally at a place in New Hampshire which the Emigrants in

respect to name of the place they came from called Londonderry. Her parents emigrated west and settled in the same township of my father. Her family relations were mostly in and around Londonderry. They used once in a great while visit at my father's, but I never knew much of them. So far as I recollect they were highly respectable people.

Hezekiah King.

The original grant of 1,000 acres was turned into a tremendous estate. By the time Lemuel King died in 1827, the family owned all the land lying between Mile Hill Road and Tolland Road; the land from East Street down to the Minterburn Mill, besides a 12-acre woodlot. On the land from East Street to the Minterburn Mill was the farm house in which Lemuel King lived on his return from the Revolutionary War. Previously, it had been owned by a Mr. Rich. In 1821 and 1822, Lemuel built upon the same site what is now the Town Farm as a gift to his son, Hezekiah, on his 21st birthday. This was the building in which Lafayette was later entertained. Across the street from this farm house, which had become the King Tavern, on the turnpike, was the Waffle Tavern which still stands, dating back to 1700.

Painted on a beam in the attic of the ell part of the building may be seen carved the figures 1700. The tavern was turned around in 1800. The original building stood north and south, now it faces east and west. The stone steps on the south side bear the date of the change, 1800.

The large wooden sign, 6 ft. 2 in. in height, 5 ft. 1 in. in width, which used to greet guests at the old King Stage House is still preserved. It is much unlike the signs of the present day. The colors are gay and gorgeous, and there is considerable gold leaf on the sign. On it is painted in the center, the Connecticut Coat of Arms or State Seal. The sign painter's name appears at the foot of the sign—a Mr. Rice. In gilt letters are the words "Vernon Hotel" and above the date—1834—10 years after Lafayette's visit. Miss J. Alice Maxwell had it redecorated. The sign has been moved from the Town Farm to the High School, to the Public Library, and now to the premises of Donald Fisk, Esq.

Line of descendant of Lemuel King; also of his great grandson, Landreth Hezekiah King, who delivered the address on behalf of his family at the Lafayette celebration at Vernon, Conn., in 1902.

John King settled in Weymouth 1622 (?)
children: John Mary
Samuel

Samuel King b. Weymouth 1635
m. Experience Phillips
children: John Samuel
Hezekiah (Deacon)

Deacon Hezekiah King b. Weymouth 1680; lived in Bolton and Vernon; moved to Amenia, N. Y., 1740 and died same year; buried in Sharon, Conn. Deacon of Sharon Congregational Church.
m. Sarah Reid
children: Hezekiah, Sarah, Samuel, Esther, Mary, Bathsheba, William, John, Mary, Alcee

Captain Hezekiah King b. Weymouth 1715
m. Anna Thrall (2nd marriage)
children: Samuel, Elsie,
**Lemuel,** Clarissa, William

**Lemuel** King b. Sept. 20, 1765; d. 1827, buried in Vernon, Conn.
m. Jane Bronson
children: Hezekiah
?
?

Hezekiah King b. April 13, 1799
m. Weltha Warburton
children: Hezekiah Richard Ellen
Edward Mary Alice

Hezekiah King b. Oct. 4, 1822
m. Rachel Landreth
children: Landreth Hezekiah
Ella Rodney

Landreth Hezekiah King b. July 28, 1859. d. Dec. 16, 1944
m. Florence Lord
children: Helen
Ruth Rodney

Will of Lemuel King, dated January 27, 1827

Important paragraphs taken from the records

To my oldest son, Emery King, one half of the farm that I bought of Dr. Carpenter, and on which he lives, together with buildings thereon which is estimated at $5,500.

I give to my son, Hezekiah King, the house and buildings where he now lives, together with the lot of land lying between the two roads leading to Tolland and Ellington being estimated at $5,500.

I give to my son, John M. King, all of my home farm and buildings thereon standing including the 12 acres of woodlot west and called the Skinner lot.

Dated January 27th, 1827
Signed Lemuel King.

In presence of Jabez Kingsbury
Horatio Dow
John Sumner

Certified from record by Asa Willey Judge

Codicil to Will of Lemuel King dated 13th of June, 1827

Lemuel King of Vernon, County of Tolland, do make and ordain this as a codicil to my last will and testament and do give to my son Hezekiah King right to take to himself out of my estate my Stage Property consisting of 12 Stage horses and 3 full sets of harness, 2 stage coaches and one stage sleigh and my right in the mail wagon for which he is to pay the rest of my heirs the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, in such a way as to enable my Executors to settle my Estate.

Dated June 13th, 1827.

Witnessed by John Kingsbury
Marcia Case
Louisa Scripture

Final Accounting of Lemuel King's Estate
Dated June 24th, 1828

| | |
|---|---|
| Inventory of Personal Estate | $10,881.76 |
| Amount of Cash received | 248.07 |
| | $11,129.83 |
| Expense of settling said Estate including Funeral | $222.34 |
| Amount of Debts paid | 1,355.07 |
| Total of property consumed by the Family during settlement | 336.10 |
| Grand Total | $1,913.51 |

1. Lorenza Sparrow purchased land and buildings including tavern from the Hopkins Estate.
2. Lorenzo Sparrow sold 52 acres of land and buildings including Waffle Tavern to George Knowles.
3. Clarence Bamforth purchased from Knowles in 1917 land and buildings including the Waffle Tavern.
4. Joseph Gollmitzer present owner purchased the buildings including Waffle Tavern and buildings from Clarence Bamforth in 1951.

A letter from Hezekiah King, written in 1837, gives some interesting information about the famous Hall of Learning in Ellington which he attended:

> I was one of sixty boys who were, fifty years ago, at Judge Hall's boarding school in Ellington. The school had an extended reputation, pupils coming from the Western States, the Southern States and some from South America. The principal was an esteemed influential citizen, the son of a prominent patriot of the Revolution, a graduate of Yale College, which institution favored the school and where many of the pupils afterward received their higher education. Among my teachers were Judge Alphonso Taft of Cincinnati, Ohio. He had then just graduated from Yale with first honors. He became afterwards prominent in Ohio politics, was made Attorney General of the United States and later was Minister to Austria. He has remembered Yale within a few years with liberal gifts. Dr. Levi Wells Flagg was another teacher. He became a noted physician and resided at Yonkers.

## THE VISIT OF GENERAL LAFAYETTE

The name of Lafayette, his nobility of character and sublime patriotism, will ever illumine the pages of history, and when in the year of 1824 he re-visited America, the entire nation rose up to greet him. Vast preparations had been made for his reception. Every village through which he passed raised its own distinctive triumphal arch. Every town on the itinerary announced his approach with the report of cannon, and everywhere he was constrained to descend from his coach, though lame, (it is thought from injuries received in the battle of Brandywine,) to receive expressions of affection from the population, albeit forty years had gone by since he contributed essentially to the achievement of our independence.

This noble benefactor of America left Paris on the 11th of July, 1824, with no other companions but his son and his secretary, Auguste Levasseur. He arrived at le Havre the next day, where the *Cadmus,* an American merchant vessel, had been waiting for several weeks. The guns of all the forts and of all the warships in the harbor were booming as he limped down the line. Old soldiers hobbled up, halted and wept. He reached New York on August 14. Here is the itinerary he followed:

Left New York August 20, 1824, for Boston, via New Haven.

Arrived in Boston August 24, remained there until August 30.

Tuesday, August 31, took an excursion to Portsmouth, Concord, Lexington, Salem, and Newburyport, returning to Boston on September 2.

September 2, proceeded to New York by way of Worcester and Hartford.

Arrived at Worcester at half-past ten o'clock, September 3, escorted by troops. Reception at the house of Judge Lincoln.

Departed from Worcester at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Reached Stafford Springs late on Friday evening. Stafford Springs in those days was a well-known resort for invalids and epicures. Lafayette slept at Stafford Springs House that night.

Arrived at the King Tavern, Vernon, Saturday morning, September 4, at 9 o'clock.

Reached Hartford about eleven o'clock.

Sunday, September 5, entered Long Island Sound at daybreak.

Arrived at New York at noon.

Sometimes historical facts are heavily incrusted with myth, legend and rumor, and through a labyrinth of oral tradition and conjecture and contradiction the careful writer has to find the way to truth. Many are the stories which have been told concerning the visit of Lafayette to the King Tavern in Vernon—stories of the decorated parlor; hilarious reception and ball; the embossed invitation cards; the sumptuous dinner party; the instant recognition of Lemuel King as a drummer boy in the General's Army; the list of distinguished guests; the platitudinous perorations—all are stories of an exaggerated imagination.

Fortunately there is in the stimulating library of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, a valuable copy of the daily diary of Lafayette kept during his stay in this country in 1824, and a copy of "The Journey of Travels in the United States," written by his secretary, A. Levasseur. Equally enlightening are the Hartford newspapers of that period, and the information preserved by members of the King family is historically impeccable.

The Times and Hartford Advertiser, Hartford, Connecticut, on Tuesday, September 7, 1824, had this paragraph:

> "Lafayette was met at the line of the State on Friday evening (September 3) by a deputation from the city, consisting of Daniel Wadsworth and Henry L. Ellsworth, Esqrs., and having passed the night at the Springs in Stafford, he was the next morning escorted by a troop of horses to King's Tavern in Vernon, where he was received, and for the remainder of the way escorted by the first company of Horse Guards under the command of Major Hart."

Early in the morning of Saturday, the 4th September, 1824, Lafayette and his party arrived at the King's Tavern. It was a wet and rainy day. The trees were just thinking of turning color and added charm to the delightful occasion. The General was graciously and expeditiously entertained at breakfast by the few remaining veterans of the Revolutionary War residing in the vicinity: Captain Chapman, Boswell Smith, David Smith, Lemuel Rogers, Justice Talcott, and Lemuel King. A certain Maria Barber, of Vernon, who claimed she was a waitress at the old King Tavern, remembered waiting on the distinguished guest. The militia, consisting of two companies, with the addition of two heavy cannon, had waited long for the General, and from sunrise on Friday until

twelve in the night the guns had kept up their continual roaring. The militia remained at their posts past midnight, and then with a feeling of great disappointment disbanded. On that night the windows of the few houses along the turnpike were softly illuminated by candlelight.

Hezekiah King, for whom the tavern was built by his father Lemuel, has left this record:

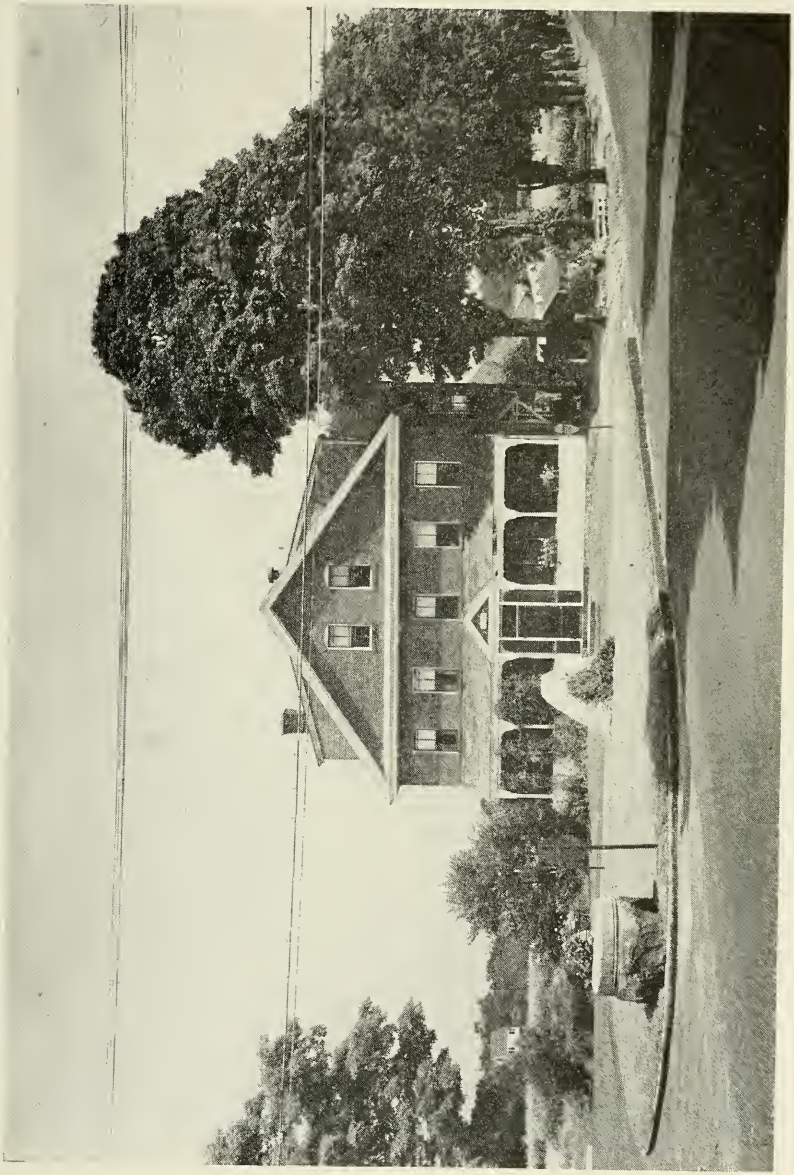
> "Forty years after the day, General Lafayette and the few remaining Revolutionary soldiers met in the parlor, assembled here by their old comrade Lemuel King. One who was present with his sword and scarf was made thoroughly happy by being at once recognized as a former aide-de-camp, and by having Lafayette throw his arms around him, and having him exclaim—"Mon ami, cher Capitaine Chapman."
>
> Lemuel King purchased a barouche and four white horses especially for this occasion. General Lafayette entered the carriage and was driven to the City Hotel, Hartford. The driver was John M. King (Lemuel King's youngest son) who was entrusted with the responsibility of carrying such a distinguished person.
>
> Lemuel King was personally known to Lafayette and it was for this reason that he besought the General to spend the night at Vernon on his way from Boston to New York, as he lived on the direct mail route."

The State House and Phoenix Bank with other elegant mansions in different parts of Hartford where preparations had been made for a brilliant display of fireworks, were disappointed by the arrival of a messenger about one o'clock in the morning with the intelligence that the General would sleep in Stafford about 26 miles from town—the lights were reluctantly extinguished and the citizens retired to rest for the night.

The sound of cannon again aroused the population from sleep at dawn of day, and though the weather remained inclement, people poured into the city through every street. Messrs. H. Terry, J. T. Peters, T. Day, C. Nichols, G. Lyman, H. L. Ellsworth, J. Russ, N. A. Phelps, and C. Sigourney met General Lafayette at East Hartford, and conducted him to the city. He arrived at half-past eleven, amid roaring of cannon, ringing of bells, and the cheering of the multitude.

About 800 children between the ages of six and twelve years, irrepressibly convivial, the girls dressed in white, and all wearing badges, carried this motto: "Nous vous aimons LaFayette." The Deaf and Dumb Pupils of the Asylum assembled in the yard of the State House with awed delight, wearing Badges with this significant, tender inscription: "We feel what our country expresses!"

Doctor Comstock presented to Lafayette, in behalf of the children, a gold medal, having on one side a facsimile of the motto and ornaments on their Badges, and on the other side this inscription: "Presented by the Children of Hartford, September 4, 1824."



TOWN FARM AND LAFAYETTE PARK

## THE DEDICATION OF LAFAYETTE PARK

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Sabra Trumbull Chapter No. 29, organized with fifteen members in Rockville, May 15, 1895, fulfilled their charter obligation "to perpetuate the memory of the men and women of the American Revolution" when on Thursday, June 12, 1902, they dedicated to the memory of Lafayette a small plot of land made into a park at the intersection of Grove, East and South Streets, just opposite the famous Vernon Inn, now the town farm. The Memorial consists of a large native boulder and a granite drinking fountain.

Fields, woods and by-ways were carefully searched for a boulder of natural growth, fitting to stand as a symbol of honor and gratitude to a firm friend of America. This was found on Michael Daly's farm. Nature resisted several efforts to remove a weight of over twelve tons, but finally a force of men dragged it from its primeval home and placed it upon hallowed ground where in strength and dignity it still stands. The huge boulder required eight horses to draw it.

"A boulder, which for aye shall stand
And speak to every passer-by
Of him, who heard our country's cry
For help."

On the boulder is an inscription on a bronze plate written by Connecticut's Chief Executive, the Honorable George McLean: "In Grateful Memory of General Lafayette, whose love of liberty brought him to American shores to dedicate his life and fortune to the cause of the Colonies, the Sabra Trumbull Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected this monument near the old King Tavern, where he was entertained in 1824."

Through the generosity of the Vice-Regent, Mrs. Celia W. Prescott, a granite drinking fountain was also dedicated, affording to dumb beasts a luxury whereby they may quench their thirst in silent gratitude, and teaching a lesson in the inscription, "A merciful man will be merciful to his beast."

Truly it was Lafayette Day. People began to assemble quite early in the morning to see the display of flags, and buildings decorated with bunting and other tri-colored material. A procession preceded the exercises.

A great grandson of Lafayette, Count Paul Lafayette of France, who was in Washington, was expected at the celebration, but found it impossible to attend.

THE PROGRAM

Invocation .....Rev. J. H. James

Address of Welcome.....Mrs. Lizzie S. Belding, Chapter Regent

Address.Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, President General National Society
Introduced by Mrs. Sarah T. Kinney, State Regent

Music—"The Star-Spangled Banner".....Hatch's Band

Oration—"General Lafayette".....Hon. Charles Phelps

Unveiling the Tablet.....Miss Belding and Miss Heath

Music—"Marsellaise Hymn".....Hatch's Band

Address—"Our Flag".....Colonel Henry H. Adams

Music.....Putnam Phalanx Band

Presentation of Lafayettt Park to the City of Rockville
Mrs. Lizzie S. Belding

Acceptance in behalf of the City.....Mayor W. H. Loomis

Music—"America".Sung by the audience, accompanied by Hatch's Band

As a finale to the program of the day, Mrs. Belding gave a reception to the president-general, and a public lawn party on her spacious grounds at Castle Sunset. Chinese lanterns hung from the trees and balconies, and the whole scene represented a fairy land.

Mrs. Landreth Hezekiah King writes of the event:

"I attended the ceremony of the unveiling of the tablet which was erected as a memorial by the D.A.R. to Lafayette at Vernon.

"I never expect to feel more like Royalty than I did that day as I rode in an open barouche with my husband's mother and father, the latter really being the hero of the occasion. The horses wore plumes, and we were preceded by a band, and there was much applause and bowing and waving to the right and left as we drove to the Tavern. Then my husband delivered the address."

A RARE MILESTONE

## A RARE MILESTONE

In the long ago milestones served as guides. They carried cheer to weary travelers. They were more reliable as to distances than the statement of the local resident or the proverbial farmer's mile.

The road started from the Court House in Tolland, passed through Vernon Center on to East Hartford, and to the Ferry, the only means at that time of crossing the Connecticut River at Hartford.

The stones of the turnpike in the early periods were not more than two feet high and two feet wide. The one at Vernon Center is a splendid specimen. Seventy years ago there were about 500 stones in our own State but not more than 300 are now in existence.

Milestones went out of business with the introduction of the improved methods of transportation, and when later the automobile came, and vast reconstruction of highways was carried on, the milestone lost its usefulness, and now stands as a historical relic, keeping a gate open into the past.

Seeking to link the past with the present in reverence and loyalty, progressive Sabra Trumbull Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, perpetuated one of these historic landmarks on a memorable day—Flag Day—June 14, 1934.

Brief exercises were held. Speakers on the occasion—Dr. Henry P. Sage, of New Haven, a recognized authority on Connecticut milestones, of the Connecticut State Highway Department, Dr. George S. Brookes, pastor of Union Church, and Harry C. Smith, a native of Vernon and a descendant of one of the town's pioneer families.

The milestone is set in a Barre granite slab. On it is a bronze tablet, with the insignia of the D.A.R. The tablet bears an inscription which appropriately calls attention to the milestone and the site of the McLean tavern.

Within a few feet of the milestone erected in 1801, seven years older than the town of Vernon, by the Hartford and Tolland Turnpike Company, is the site on which stood the McLean tavern, now the Tolland County Home. The old Stage Coach stopped at this tavern. The center of true neighborliness, it was built by Alexander McLean in 1793.

The inscription on the tablet is as follows:

"Old Milestone erected by Hartford and Tolland Turnpike Company, 1801. Six miles to Tolland Court House. McLean tavern, built in 1793, stood on these grounds. Marker placed by Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D.A.R., June 14, 1934.

OLD TAVERN AT DOBSONVILLE

## EARLY TRANSPORTATION — THE STAGE COACH

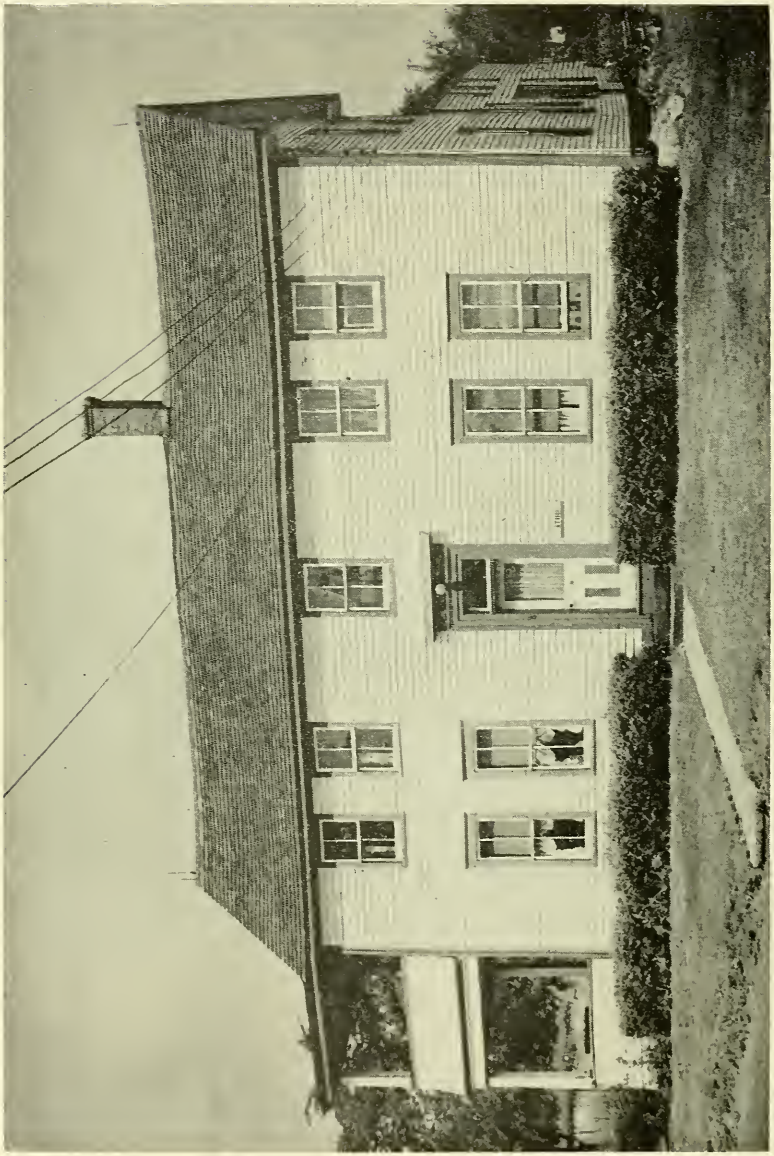
In the days before steam was applied to transportation, the turnpike served as the great carrier of men and goods, and opened the big world to many an obscure village. Indeed, it was the first step in advance for the upkeep of roads. As early as the year 1783, Levi Pease, in company with Joseph Sykes, Bostonians, established a stage line between Boston and New York over the stone-strewn and crooked roads which then constituted the northern route, passing through Worcester, Palmer, Stafford Springs, Vernon, and Hartford.

Josiah Quincy has described in a playful manner his experience by this route in 1784:

> "I set out from Boston on the line of stage established by an enterprising Yankee. The journey took a week. The carriage was old and shackling, and much of the harness was made of ropes. One pair of horses carried the stage eighteen miles. We generally reached our resting place for the night, if no accident intervened, at ten o'clock, and after a frugal supper went to bed with a notice that we should be called at three the next morning. Then whether it snowed or rained the traveler must rise and make ready by the help of a horn lantern and a farthing candle, and proceed on his way over bad roads. Thus we traveled eighteen miles a stage, sometimes obliged to get out and help the coachman lift the coach out of a quagmire or rut, and arrived at New York after a week's hard traveling, wondering at the ease as well as the expedition of our journey."

Prior to 1806 (the year the turnpike road was actually built between Boston and New York) these stages journeyed over 254 miles of road, the distance being reduced by road improvements to 210 miles by 1821. The cost: Fourpence per mile per passenger—£3-10-0 one way. New York was reached by way of Worcester, Stafford, Vernon, Hartford, and New Haven in forty hours.

The stage coach driver soon became a famous institution throughout New England. Muffled in winter in his huge gray woolen scarf, and nestled in warm robes, he defiantly flung off the icy arrows of the season. In summer, when on the hilly roads



WAFFLE TAVERN

time loitered like an idle errand boy, he kept his passengers in a jovial mood with his colorful and unconventional personality, his sage observation and flashes of wit. Friendliness was his forte and honor his charm. The notes from his horn reverberated among the hills as he drew up to the tavern where horses and gossip were swapped. The hostler watered the horses, while the mail was shifting. Countless errands were entrusted to his elastic memory.

In 1793 Alexander McLean, a hard working man of North Bolton, built a tavern at Vernon Center, which was used for many years as an orphan asylum. All the stage coaches stopped here. It stood on the site now occupied by the Tolland County Home.

Another tavern, or wayside inn, well-known in the early days of the town was the Sullivan House at Dobsonville. Social entertainments were often enjoyed there. The old dance hall can still be seen. About six feet from the floor there is a little alcove, where popular "Bije" Evans used to fiddle for the dancers. The menageries which came to town exhibited in front of this tavern.

All the coaches stopped at King's Tavern, Vernon, for fresh relays of horses. Passengers eagerly crossed the road to Waffle Tavern, famous for its delicious waffles, hot enough to tempt the most jaded appetite, and the liquors were of the best. It was often remarked that even a glass of water over this bar was worth three cents. Lemuel King bought the Rich farm and lived there. A member of the King family tells that when the stage reached the toll gate, a little west of the tavern, the horn was sounded, and immediately the waffle irons were put into the coals to heat. The mother of Samuel J. Chaffee, formerly of Rockville, was employed at the tavern as cook.

The tavern's popularity increased when in June, 1812, Congress made a declaration of war against Britain, and all American vessels were barred from sailing from New York to Boston and elsewhere. The route by sea around Point Judith was avoided, and people therefore had to travel by road. Waffle Tavern could not possibly accommodate the increasing number of travelers.

In 1820 and 1821 Lemuel King built the commodious brick tavern, later called Vernon Inn, now the town farm. The brick for the new building was manufactured on the ground, and when completed the inn was pronounced one of the best buildings in the State, east of the Connecticut River. After a century and a quarter, the building remains a monument to the skill and workmanship of the builders.

Vernon Inn was the gift of Lemuel King to his son Hezekiah.

on the occasion of his twenty-first birthday, and the affection of the soldier was certainly reflected in the costly appurtenances of the tavern. The parlor was a feast for the artistic eye. The wall paper was pictorial. Mythological characters portrayed Ceres, the Roman goddess of grain; the Roman Hercules in the act of slaying the dragon; and Atalanta, the Greek, in one of her celebrated bursts of speed. The sunny rooms, the wide stairway, the antique furniture, the business den, the twenty horses in the stables, and the hitching posts which now stand unused engrave upon our imagination that center of social life in the long ago, to which the stage coaches brought tidings from the outer world. Ivied tradition tells us that Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, General Grant, and other distinguished personages shared the hospitality of the inn, and the visit of General Lafayette is anchored in facts.

From the diary of the honorable Timothy Bigelow, noted author and traveler of Boston, we glean his impression of the tavern in a trip he took from Boston to Philadelphia in 1822:

> "From Stafford Springs, the first town in Connecticut, we went to Tolland in Connecticut, where we intended to have dined, but were prevented by a hungry collection of Conventional ministers, who had assembled there that day from all parts of Connecticut, and it was said would probably consume all there was in the place that could be possibly put on the table that day. We stopped, and enquiring, were told by the landlord that if we would sit down with a few of them we could stand some chance of whetting our whistles, but must scramble for the rest, as they were a very hungry race of men—or, he said, we could go on—which we preferred, and we rode as far as King's Inn, in Vernon, Connecticut, where we arrived about three o'clock, and were provided with every refreshment we could wish. We had a good dinner, well cooked, good attendance, and the house one of the best ever visited by travelers in this or any other country. It is a house in every respect well worthy of the attention of travelers."

The toll house on the turnpike stood on the site now occupied by Mr. Benton's antique shop at the junction of South Street (then Squire Rogers Street) and the highway. The house was painted red, and Thaddeus C. Bruce collected the toll. "Squire" Bruce they called him, for he held court in his house occasionally to deal with cases of disorderly conduct in the vicinity. He owned a farm

in the eastern part of the town and his house, located on the turnpike near its intersection with South Street, was used as a toll house. Judge Bruce in true Masonic fashion called it "The East Gate." He was a noted local character. His tall, ungainly form, unkempt appearance, unconventional manner and jovial ways were a frequent source of joy and delight to the younger brethren. It was "Brother" Bruce who arranged for the first lodge room in what was formerly the dance hall of the old brick tavern.

Another of Bruce's arrangements proved disagreeable and costly to himself and others. He owned a swamp on land adjoining his home. He persuaded a group of people to invest in his "peat bog," in the hope of saving the cost of wood and coal. But Bruce's peat turned out to be nothing but mud, and time and money went up in smoke.

The toll gates were about ten miles apart. Twenty-five cents admitted a pleasure carriage and horses, while farmers and drovers paid one cent for the passage of each sheep or swine. A man with his horse paid four cents, but persons living within a mile of the gate or attending church or a funeral were allowed the priviliges of the gate without charge.

## THE VERNON TOWN FARM

Colonel Lemuel King died in 1827. The next year his son, Hezekiah, was induced to go to St. Louis, where he entered into a partnership with his brother-in-law, John Warburton, but the King Tavern still had history to make as the home of the poor and unfortunate of the Town of Vernon. In the meantime, Sanford Grant and Buell McKinley, ancestors of Hezekiah King, were successful proprietors of the tavern.

In the year 1847, when staging was abandoned, the King Tavern was closed. It was used as a farmhouse until purchased by the Town of Vernon.

Previous to 1868, those who were unfortunate enough to apply to the town authorities for assistance or comfort were boarded at different places. Those having relatives or friends were allowed, if possible, to remain with them, the town bearing the necessary expense. Frequently two or three were boarded at one place for a stipulated price, though the Town of Vernon never adopted the plan of allowing the support of the poor to be auctioned off to the lowest bidder, as was the custom in many towns in earlier times, and still prevails in some localities.

On December 4, 1826, it was voted that the Selectmen be authorized to establish a workhouse in this town or if thought best to negotiate with and join some neighboring town for said purpose.

So on January 13, 1840, the town made arrangements with Mr. Henry Watrous, of South Coventry, "to receive into his workhouse all persons sentenced to the workhouse by the civil authorities of Vernon the present year."

A special town meeting was held on the 26th day of October, 1867, "to see about buying a farm for the purpose of caring for the poor." A committee was appointed consisting of William R. Orcutt, Arnold Carey and Isaac Chester for that purpose, and after an exhaustive investigation reported at another special meeting held on November 18, 1867, strongly favoring the purchasing of a farm owned by David F. Dart. The report was accepted unanimously, and the property deeded to the Town in consideration of $5,800. L. A. Corbin, A. R. Talcott, and F. A. Little were the selectmen at the time.

They expended the sum of $1,749.50, purchased a yoke of oxen for $300 and two cows for $170. Other land was purchased

later from Rowena Rich and John Kingsbury. Today the town farm consists of eighty acres.

In 1883, the town appropriated $800 to replace the barn which had been destroyed by fire; on December 1, 1888, the Selectmen were instructed to put in a steam-heating apparatus, and in 1891 by vote of the town, $15,000 was spent in further improvements. There are 22 sleeping rooms, two dining rooms, kitchen, laundry, bathrooms, smoke room and two pantries to accommodate the ten occupants.

Mr. Everett Robertson was appointed superintendent April 6, 1953.

## VERNON POST OFFICE

A post office was established at Bolton, Tolland County, Connecticut, on September 30, 1812. It was discontinued on January 31, 1940, reestablished on April 18, 1940, and discontinued on December 31, 1942. Listed below are the names of the postmasters who served at Bolton and the date of appointment of each, as shown in the records of the Post Office Department now in the National Archives and in records still maintained by the Department:

| Postmaster | Date of Appointment |
|---|---|
| Saul Alvord | September 30, 1812 |
| Samuel Williams | October 18, 1828 |
| Jabez S. White | May 19, 1837 |
| Hubble B. Alvord | June 1, 1841 |
| Jabez S. White | August 16, 1843 |
| Elisha K. Williams | September 6, 1845 |
| Albert Ruggles | July 9, 1861 |
| Mrs. M. Amelia Ruggles | October 15, 1864 |
| Henry Alvord | October 28, 1865 |
| Sherman Summer | September 27, 1870 |
| John A. Loomis | April 21, 1876 |
| John A. Alvord | March 28, 1881 |
| John A. Loomis | October 25, 1883 |
| William B. Williams | January 13, 1887 |
| Everett M. Beebe | September 26, 1890 |
| William C. White | October 3, 1891 |
| Maude E. White | May 6, 1912 |
| Miss Adelia N. Loomis | December 2, 1919 |
| Mrs. Ruth E. McDonnough | April 18, 1940 |

Mail route service to Bolton for the period 1828-1833 indicates that Mail Contract No. 334, from New London (via Uncasville, Norwich City, Norwich, Franklin, Lebanon, Columbia, Andover, *Bolton*, Manchester, and East Hartford) to Hartford, a distance of 54½ miles, three times a week, in carriages, was let to Zorister Bonney of Hartford.

The post office at Vernon, Tolland County, Connecticut, was established as Vernon Depot on July 29, 1853. Its name was changed to Vernon on September 28, 1885. Listed below are the names of the postmasters who served at Vernon and the date of appointment of each, as shown in the records of the Post Office Department now in the National Archives:

| Postmaster | Date of Appointment |
|---|---|
| Ira Ellis | July 29, 1853 |
| Alfred K. Talcott | June 17, 1861 |
| Ransal H. Agard | September 27, 1866 |
| Benjamin C. Phelps | July 16, 1872 |
| Gideon G. Tillinghast | July 18, 1889 |
| Waldo E. Tillinghast | February 10, 1914 |
| John J. Merz | April 6, 1923 |
| Mrs. Florence L. Foley | December 31, 1948 (Still serving) |

The post office at Vernon Center, Tolland County, Connecticut, was established at Vernon about March 24, 1812. Its name was changed to Vernon Center on June 24, 1885. This post office was discontinued on March 15, 1910. Listed below are the names of the postmasters who served at Vernon Center and the date of appointment of each, as shown in the records of the Post Office Department now in the National Archives:

| Postmaster | Date of Appointment |
|---|---|
| Lebbeus P. Tinker | March 24, 1812 |
| Edwin G. Brigham | October 1, 1844 |
| Francis McLean, Jr. | July 14, 1849 |
| Eugene F. McLean | January 5, 1863 |
| William H. Allen | June 22, 1869 |
| Miss Hattie E. Bill | March 29, 1878 |
| Hattie E. Ingraham | November 26, 1880 |
| Susan L. Bill | July 16, 1886 |
| Selina G. Butler | April 19, 1887 |

Mail route service to Vernon Center (formerly Vernon) for the period 1828-1833 indicates that Mail Contract No. 367, from New Haven (via Northford, Durham, Middletown, Upper Middletown, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, Hartford, East Hartford, *Vernon*, Tolland, Stafford Springs, Holland, Sturbridge, Charlton, Clappville, Worcester, Westboro, Southboro, Framingham, Natick, Newton, Newton Upper Fall, and Brighton) to Boston let to Nathan Peck & Co. of New Haven, a distance of 135 miles, daily in stages.

The first post office building was erected on the site of the old County Home.

## PROBATE COURT

The Probate Court was constituted for the Ellington District on May 31, 1826, including both the towns of Ellington and Vernon. At that time, Ellington was a larger community than Rockville.

The first judge was Asa Willey whose first term was from 1826 to 1833. Apparently judges at that time were elected for one year, with the term of office later being increased to two years, and in 1949 to four years.

Mr. Willey served at three different times. Records show that this was not at all uncommon, for in many cases a judge who was out of office for a period would be re-elected. Whether this was due to political differences or to other factors is not known. Mr. Willey and Benjamin Pinney alternated in office from 1826 to 1841, serving for various lengths of time. Another judge who was "in and out" was Phineas Talcott, first elected in 1844, with his final term ending in 1858. Some of these judges, especially the early ones, undoubtedly came from Ellington.

Where the courtroom was located before the Memorial Building is not known, except that Judge Talcott held court in the east wing of his home on Prospect Street, where he had a good-sized courtroom and an office. This property now serves the Union Congregational Church as a parsonage. It was the Talcott family who gave Talcott Park to the city.

At least two of the judges of the Probate Court held high state offices. They were Dwight W. Loomis, who became a Superior Court judge, and Lyman T. Tingier, who became lieutenant governor of Connecticut.

The following is the list of judges and their terms:

Asa Willey—1826-1833
Benjamin Pinney—1833-34
Asa Willey—1834-35
Benjamin Pinney—1835-38
Asa Willey—1838-41
Oliver H. King—1841-42
Thaddeus C. Bruce—1842-44
Phineas Talcott—1844-46
Joel W. Smith—1846-47
Phineas Talcott—1847-50
Thaddeus C. Bruce—1850-51
Phineas Talcott—1851-54
Dwight W. Loomis—1854-55

Frank W. Perry—1855-57
Phineas Talcott—1857-58
Caleb Hopkins—1858-69
Gelon West—1869-90
Lyman Twining Tingier—1890-95
Lester D. Phelps—1895-1903
Edward P. Reiser—1903-05
John E. Fahey—1905-29
C. Denison Talcott—1929-37
Francis T. O'Loughlin—1937-47
Nelson C. Mead—1947-49
Thomas F. Rady—1949-

December 2, 1811

Voted that swine be allowed to go at large on the highways and commons on condition of having two rings in each nose.

April 12, 1813

Voted to accept of the Bridge built by Chester King's saw mill to be considered in future as belonging to the Town as other bridges do.

1816—

Whereas the convenience and safety of persons passing and traveling in the highway, especially in difficult places, is of public and general concern, and whereas immediately west of the meeting house in Vernon the road goes down a long steep hill so that people on foot are greatly exposed to be run upon by sleighs, wagons and carriages of all descriptions, especially on the Sabbath, voted that the posts now standing in said road to protect a sidewalk shall be continued and kept in constant repair by the surveyor of the District.

April 5, 1824

Voted that the selectmen procure a place to erect a Building for the Hearse.

December 6, 1824

Voted to solicit subscriptions for building a house for the hearse.

April 2, 1827

Voted that neat cattle, horses, mules, and geese be restrained from going at large on the Highways and commons in the Town of Vernon.

December 6, 1830—Meeting at Conference Room

Voted that the several surveyors allow eight cents per hour for labor of able-bodied men and others in proportion.

That the Selectmen procure as much stove pipe and put up the same in the Conference Room as they may think necessary to prevent smoke in the room.

1831—The following legislation on temperance in December 1831:

> "Resolved as the sense of this meeting that the civil authorities be requested not to grant any retailing

license in the town the ensuing year."

December 4, 1837

That the selectmen agree with some person to ring and toll the bell at the time of any death or funeral.

December 2, 1839

That the selectmen agree with some person to ring and toll the bell at the deaths and funerals of those for whom it is requested.

In 1840, January, a meeting was warned, among other things, to see if said town will license taverners or retailers to sell wines and spirituous liquors. Being decided in the affirmative, it was voted "That the storekeepers who keep drugs and medicines for sale have license to sell wines and spirituous liquors for medicinal purposes and the mechanic arts the year ensuing."

In October 1845, vote by ballot was taken for special commissioners to grant licenses for the sale of wines and spirituous liquors the ensuing year when Alonzo Bailey, Nathaniel O. Kellogg and Edwin G. Brigham were declared duly chosen for that purpose.

October 4, 1852

That the school visitors of the school societies be paid out of the town treasury hereafter.

That the Town pay annually hereafter the sum of thirty dollars to the first Ecclesiastical Society in Vernon for the use of their Conference Room for town purposes.

From 1856 town meetings were held in alternate years at Rockville and Vernon Center. In 1865 all such meetings were transferred to Rockville.

April 30, 1861—Special Town Meeting

Selectmen be authorized to furnish one Colts Revolver to each member of the Citizens' Guard of Rockville in case they are called into actual service; and that said arms are to belong to the town.

May 6, 1861

That town furnish each member of the Citizens' Guard of Rockville going into actual service with a uniform and that said uniforms belong to the town until the expense is assumed by the State.

July 19, 1862

Selectmen shall pay a bounty of fifty dollars to any resident of the Town who shall volunteer and become enrolled in a Military company to go into the Army for the defense of the country. The call of the President is for 300,000 volunteers. Defray expenses of

caring for sick and wounded soldiers. [The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect the next year, 1863.]

October 20, 1862—Special Town Meeting

Town Clerk instructed to place on record account of all the men who have enlisted and who may enlist in the Army or Navy from this town.

November 22, 1864

Selectmen instructed to fill quota of the Town for a future call of 500,000 men upon the best terms they can obtain. $200 to be paid to every man who shall enlist or procure a substitute, same paid when accepted.

August 22, 1865

A sum of $25,000 be appropriated for the purpose of defraying all necessary expenses incurred in war. $300 each for persons drafted. [Lincoln was assassinated in 1865.]

October 26, 1867

Sum of $1500 to be used for a soldiers' monument when a like sum has been raised by subscriptions.

[The Tolland County Journal of April 18, 1868, informs us that Rockville is just now suffering from some very severe strokes of misfortune. Two important firms have publicly stated their inability to meet the demands of creditors. The Florence Mills and the Rose Silk Manufacturing Company are embarrassed.]

[It was in the year 1869 that the Fifteenth Amendment was passed by both houses, giving suffrage to the Negroes.]

In 1878—that the payment for an annual dinner for the town authorities be discontinued.

1880—The whole number of names on the Registry List of the Town of Vernon used at the Electors' and Town Meeting was 1172.

[In 1882 the Citizens' Band engaged premises for a roller skating rink at the old Envelope Shop—a skate room, raised platform for music and spectators. Floor space 90 x 40 ft. Admission, gents 10c, ladies free. Use of skates 15c per night.]

During the decade from 1880-1890 the issue of granting licenses for spirituous liquors was voted upon each year. Only once, in 1884, did a majority oppose license, and then only by a majority of 38. [There was a lack of ethical traffic lights in those years.]

October 10, 1885

A committee reported that something ought to be done in

honor of the soldiers who went forth in the defense of the Stars and Stripes in the late War of the Rebellion. Favor of the purchase of a lot by the Town and the creation of a Memorial Building thereon.

October 12, 1889

That the Town pay a bounty of $2.00 each on foxes killed and a bounty of 25c on woodchucks killed in the town of Vernon.

October 19, 1893

Evening school 250 applied for instruction. Appropriation and plans made for only 50.

November 16, 1893

Bell in Methodist Church is not powerful enough to give a thorough alarm.

On October 5, 1893, at the Annual Town Meeting, for the first time women were allowed to vote. By an act of the State Legislature, July 1, 1893, women had been granted the right to vote "at any meeting held for the purpose of choosing any officer of schools or for any education purpose." At the October meeting, 1893, 349 of Vernon's women cast their ballots. It is interesting to note that the novelty of the ballot soon wore off. In 1895, 19 women voted; in 1897, 21 women cast their votes; in 1898, only 5 women were interested; and in 1901, not one woman voted.

An editorial in the Sun, New York's great newspaper, with ideas of its own on woman's suffrage, printed this paragraph on October 17, 1895:

> "In Tolland County, a strait-laced, old-fashioned agricultural region among tall, rugged hills, and with no considerable towns, the woman vote was in effect nil, since in nine-tenths of the town not a woman voted."

April 12, 1894

New jail buildings, Tolland County, erected to take the place of the one burned last September, now ready for occupancy. Substantial in construction, convenient in arrangement and artistic in design.

October 1, 1894

Voted $1000 to establish and maintain Evening Schools. In 1897—Bicycle regulations were made for the first time:

Every owner or keeper of a bicycle shall annually on or before the first day of June cause said bicycle to be registered, num-

bered, described, and licensed for one year in the town clerk's office. One dollar for bicycle carrying one person—two dollars for two persons or more.

The town tree warden, Samuel K. Ellis, planted an elm with appropriate exercises in the school yard of East School, named "Ellis Elm." Exercises on Tuesday, April 11, 1911. The same day Ellis planted a sugar maple in the school yard of the West District.

July 10, 1913

Lightning never strikes twice in the same place, so they say, but the tower on Memorial Building was struck for the third time last Sunday.

A War Bulletin Board was erected on Town property east of Memorial Building March 9, 1918.

November 4, 1918—Special Town Meeting

Resolved that $2500 be appropriated by the town for the purpose of defraying in part expenses of Emergency Hospital during the prevalence of the influenza epidemic.

September 23, 1920

Women were very eager to use the right to vote as given them by the 19th amendment. Seven hundred twenty-five women filed applications. It was necessary for registrars to swear in deputies for clerical duty.

November 19, 1923—Special Town Meeting

Resolved a committee of seven be appointed to consider plans for a permanent memorial to those residents of the town of Vernon who served in World War and in other wars of our country.

October 6, 1924

Voted to sell the old school building situated on Maple Street to the highest bidder, who is to remove the same. (The building stood on a site to the rear of the present building.)

October 2, 1922

That the town of Vernon shall build and equip a building for public school purposes on the land now owned by said town at corner of Union and Maple Streets, not to exceed $118,000 in cost.

October 5, 1925

Committee on War Memorial suggested a large stone tower (somewhat on lines of the far-famed tower at Newport) about 40 feet high be erected on Fox Hill.

July 2, 1927

The School Committee returned to the town $5000 of the

$40,000 appropriated for the repairing and refitting the old High School building.

July 3, 1935

Application to Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for a grant to aid in financing the construction of War Memorial, School and Recreation Center.

August 31, 1935—Special

To see if town will allow the sale of alcoholic liquor on premises operating under hotel permitting restaurant and club permits on Sundays between 12 noon and 9:00 in the evening. Yes, 122—No, 130—defeated.

John Booth Thomas, esteemed town clerk for 21 years, passed away on January 13, 1936. A Yale man of the Class of 1893, he was always competent and considerate.

October 3, 1938

Minutes of this annual town meeting had special reference to the recent flood and hurricane. $75,000 appropriated to meet expenses of repairing or rebuilding roads, bridges, public buildings and other damage.

Monday morning, September 19, 1938, opened a week unforgettable in New England history—one of America's costliest disasters. It is still called Connecticut's Black Hour of 1938. The death toll was 558 in the region, with property losses estimated from $150 to $400 million. It rained Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, then on Wednesday, September 21, between 4:10 p.m. and 5 p.m. within 40 minutes more than 100 Connecticut residents were dead.

A Tree Planting Ceremony took place on a Saturday afternoon in April, 1939, in Central Park, under the auspices of Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D.A.R. Mrs. O. C. Peterson, Regent.

This was part of a plan of the organization to plant trees in our parks and streets to replace some of the beautiful landmarks destroyed by the hurricane.

November 4, 1941—Special Town Meeting

The establishing of a Recreation Center within the town of Vernon was voted.

March 20, 1941

Fire destroys the Rockville Journal Building—The old White Opera House (corner Brooklyn and Market Streets).

December 18, 1941

Council grants permit to tear down Railroad Station. Permis-

sion given to Leo Abel of East Hartford to raze the old railroad station of the New Haven road on Market Street. Station was a one-story frame building over 50 years old.

March 17, 1942

Resolved that a five per cent discount be allowed to all taxpayers who pay their current year's taxes in full on or before April 15.

Voted to adopt the use of voting machines at all elections.

October 1, 1942

Hospital Trustees purchased Miss J. Alice Maxwell property on Union Street. Acquired estate for a hospital.

October 6, 1942

Voted to appropriate the sum of $750 for the erection of an Honor Roll for the citizens from the Town of Vernon who are members of the country's armed forces.

June 15, 1943

Approved the use of the Vernon Center School for housing Fire Department truck and equipment.

Permit the Dobsonville Auxiliary Fire Department to erect a building to house fire equipment on land of the Dobsonville School property.

May 4, 1944

Sale recorded of historical property at Vernon Center—Henry E. and Florence B. Marcham have purchased from John R. King his farm and buildings located on the turnpike at Vernon Center for their future home. This is the site upon which the first house of worship in the town of Vernon was erected. The meeting house stood on the top of the hill about a half mile east of the present meeting house in Vernon Center.

August 29, 1944

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell to the State of Connecticut 3.03 acres of land located at the Town Farm.

May 29, 1945

The legal voters hereby authorize and instruct the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town of Vernon to convey by deed to the American Legion, Stanley Dobosz Post No. 14, Inc., a certain piece or parcel of land situated on the easterly side of East Street approximately 350 feet front and 500 feet deep for a club house, athletic, recreational and parking purposes. Upon termination of existence of the American Legion it shall revert to Town. The town to donate its one-half interest in the "Observation Hut" now

situated on Fox Hill to Stanley Post to be removed to newly acquired location.

December 16, 1945

Voted to grant to Vernon Fire Company #2 the use of the Dobsonville School House for recreational purposes.

October 15, 1946—Special Town Meeting

Resolved that for the Town of Vernon celebration or home-coming in honor of the Armed Services in World War II, the sum of $2500 is hereby appropriated to defray the expense of said celebration or home-coming.

December 17, 1946

Voted to approve the payment of a $300 bonus to each of the teaching and non-teaching employees of the Board of Education; to each clerk, and to the janitor in the Memorial Building, to the Superintendent of the Town Farm and a $60 bonus to the part-time janitor of the Vernon Depot School and a $30 bonus to the school nurse.

August 19, 1947—Special Town Meeting

The Board of Selectmen to construct a parking place on the vacant lot adjoining the Memorial Building for the convenience of officials occupying the Memorial Building. Voted.

October 6, 1947

Favored the participation with the other towns of Tolland County in forming a Health District.

September 26, 1950

Voted to appropriate a sum not to exceed three hundred seventy-three thousand, one hundred twenty-three and 11/100 $373,-123.11, for the erection, equipping, and suitable furnishing of one elementary school within said town; the said amount to include the purchase of a site and all other costs and charges.

February 27, 1951

First Selectman Herbert Pagani presented the following resolution and moved its adoption—

Whereas: We the people of the town of Vernon and the city of Rockville have learned with great concern of the possibility that the J. P. Stevens & Sons Company is considering closing its Rockville Mills, known as the Hockanum Mills, and

Whereas: The Hockanum Mills have for many years been Rockville's and Vernon's outstanding industry with both the city and town growing around the mills, and

Whereas: The employment, the happiness and the future welfare of great numbers of families here would be upset if such action was taken, We, representative citizens of the Town of Vernon, at a special town meeting Tuesday night, February 27, 1951, go on record expressing the high regard that the Hockanum Mills are held by the people of Rockville and the high esteem in which the Stevens Company is held, and we trust that your concern will continue to remain as our leading industry for many years to come. It would be equally a loss to the Company as well as to Rockville and Vernon if the Stevens Company should close its local mills, for these mills in addition to being a very valuable asset to the city and town, are also an asset to the Company because of the high grade workers who are experienced in producing merchandise of the highest grade, merchandise which has given Rockville a nation-wide reputation.

Vincent Jordan seconded and it was so voted.

April 17, 1951—Special Town Meeting

Mr. John Sweeney presented the following resolution and moved its adoption:—

Be it resolved that we, the legal voters of the town of Vernon, in town meeting assembled this 17th day of April, 1951, hereby authorize the appropriation of $1500 as recommended by the Board of Finance, for the purpose of encouraging industrial development within the entire geographical limits of the Town of Vernon.

Motion seconded by Robert Murphy.

June 19, 1951—Special Meeting

Mr. Marcham presented the following resolution:—

Resolved that the State Building Code as compiled by the Connecticut State Housing Authority be and the same is hereby adopted for the Town of Vernon. Charles Heintz moved. Stephen Von Euw seconded.

March 4, 1952

Robert Marcham motioned to have the Statutory Revaluation made by professional appraisers.

Voted that the sum of $11,900 be appropriated for Vernon School and $8,000 be appropriated for expenses for the Board of Education.

To appropriate the sum of $27,000 for teachers' salary increases for 1951-1952.

# SECTION II

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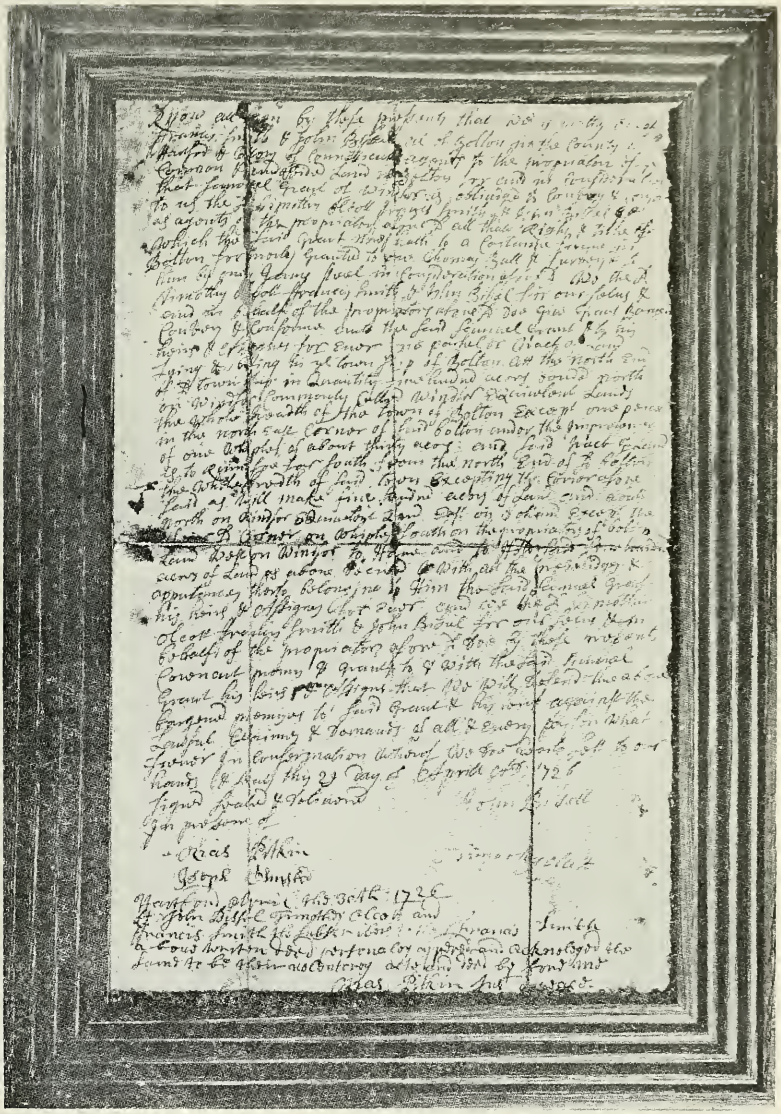


FACSIMILE OF ORIGINAL DEED

GRANT HOMES

## THE VISION OF SAMUEL GRANT

When the eighteenth century was yet in its teens, the Town of Bolton had become a flourishing center of population and speculation. A group of enterprising inhabitants desired to construct through the center of the settlement on the familiar ridge a common, but in promulgating the project, they discovered that Captain Bull's farm, owned by a non-resident, Samuel Grant of Windsor, might prove a barrier to their contemplated plan. His home and his interests were not in Bolton but in Windsor, Connecticut. Whispering their misgivings to each other these perturbed residents approached Samuel Grant in the faint hope of inducing him to exchange his farm in Bolton for 500 acres at the extreme north end of the town, which included Rockville and its excellent water power. It was the year 1726!

To their astonishment, Samuel Grant envisaged in the proposition a bright future, and with complete confidence in his own rugged instinct, immediately mounted his best horse, rode hastily from Windsor, crossed the Hockanum stream, clambered over rocks and through dense thickets until he reached the outlet of Shenipset pond, and there prospected in traditional Yankee fashion.

Then with an eagerness as fresh and invigorating as the northern air, Samuel Grant rode to Bolton for a conference with the proprietors, and without much formality exchanged his six hundred acres (those who knew were certain it did not measure a foot more than one hundred acres) for five hundred acres or more of the land in the north end of the township. The transaction was consummated with accelerated speed by the proprietors, for they regarded the land on Shenipset outlet as almost worthless. On the other hand, Samuel Grant viewed with evident pride his five hundred acres of primitive land, which today is the fertile and promising city of Rockville in the town of Vernon.

With restless feet and a questing mind, the pioneer packed his saddlebags on the Sabbath after sunset (not to offend the strict Sabbath laws), waved goodbye to his kinsfolk on Monday morning to possess his pristine home in the wilderness. He raised his hat in gratitude when he reached a glen at the corner of Union Street and Grant Street, and there working sturdily and unceasingly with his narrow but effective pioneer's axe he erected in the course of a few months a comfortable loghouse, 20 x 15 feet, con-

sisting of one room and an attic. This was destroyed by fire, but a little red one-story building was erected to replace the log cabin and was moved south of the Keeney fence to make room for the present house on the corner of Union and West Streets, and occupied by Nathaniel R. Grant and family.

That was the beginning of civilization in the western part of Rockville in the year 1726—Behold! An adventurer of high courage; a lonely hut of pine and hemlock, and never the cry of a child in it; a pathway cut through a jungle of underbrush; a territory as bleak as a prairie after dark; a tributary of the Shenipset passing near by on its undiscouraged way to the sea; and a few wider trails leading to Hartford, Windsor, Tolland and Bolton. That was all!

Mark the contrast! The town of Vernon with an area of 11,758 acres had a population in 1950 of town 10,115; city 8,016, and a city Grand List of $10,703,942.

Samuel Grant was a descendant of Matthew Grant, who was born in England on October 27, 1601, and died in Windsor, Connecticut, December 16, 1681. Dr. Henry R. Stiles in his "History of Ancient Windsor" informs us that "few men filled so large a place in the early history of that town as honest Matthew Grant."

The maker of history in these hills was born at Windsor, Connecticut, in 1691 and died in the same town in 1751. He had a family of six sons, only one of whom tarried in Rockville long enough to acquire a sense of belonging. Ozias was born at East Windsor in 1733, came here in 1761, ten years after his father's death, and built a frame house on land adjoining the old log cabin in the year 1782. He became a farmer and built grist and saw mills near the site on which the Saxony mill stood until quite recently. That was the first harnessing of the power of the cataracts of the Hockanum River.

One spring morning, however, when Ozias was enjoying the work in his field, as bright and eager as the wild daisies about him, he was abruptly pressed into the service of the English army, took part in the Quebec Campaign, and marched on the Lexington Alarm. He resumed farming on his return.

His colorful and unconventional personality attracted the attention of the small community. From an oral rather than a written tradition we learn that he had been a miller by trade, and usually wore the white linen cap of those days.

He was remarkable for his simple and quaint manners, perfect health, and unusual stature, "whose foot made a great track in the

sand." He lived to the age of four score and ten years, and was laid to rest in the ancient burying ground at Vernon in 1823.

Ozias Grant had a family of thirteen children: Elnathan, Abiel (who was fatally injured in a Rockville mill), Wareham, Aurelia, Augustus, Aruma, Teruiah, Elijah, Elisha, Francis, Lorana, Anna, and Elvira.

Only one of these sons of Ozias, Elnathan, contributes interest to our historical sketch. He was born in Vernon, August 31, 1761, and died in Tolland on August 31, 1849, the last survivor of the Revolutionary War in Tolland County. It is recorded of Elnathan that one night he was put on picket duty after he had been deprived of sleep for two or three nights, and was discovered fast asleep by one of the officers. He was hurriedly taken to the guardhouse and locked up. The next day he was charged with the grave offense of sleeping while on duty, and sentenced to be shot. Later in the day some of the officers heard of his desperate predicament and, moved with pity, common to men in uniform, interceded in his behalf, pleading his youthfulness and previous good character as a soldier.

After a long consultation it was officially decided to revoke the sentence and give him another chance. He was ecstatically pleased, and the chastening experience remained etched upon his memory. Elnathan owned "Covenant" in the Vernon Church, and was known as "a simple-hearted, pure-minded, honest, Christian man." The Elnathan Grant homestead, built in 1782, still stands, No. 102 Union Street. It is known as the Bailey House, and is owned and occupied by Mrs. Clyde Davis. Bailey Lane, which joins Union Street and Prospect Street, belongs to the same tradition.

Harlow Kingsbury Grant, a son of Francis Grant, born in Rockville on February 5, 1809, is remembered by few. He lived in a house that stood near the site of the ancient log cabin. He attended the little Grant School, continuing his education in the Vernon High School, where he became noted for his fine penmanship. As an incident in his school career, a composition composed and written by him on the temperance question was so convincing that a teacher, T. L. Wright, of East Hampton, Massachusetts, found it necessary to reply to it.

And a son of Harlow Kingsbury Grant, Nathaniel Root Grant, grandfather of Harlow Grant and father of Frank Grant, had an important role in the early days. Born in 1836, he resided on the

old Grant estate, owning thirty-five acres of the original 500 acres. He was a milk peddler, using in his business a pair of oxen. He constructed a sugar mill on the Grant estate, opposite the Maple Street School. Here he raised sorghum, and the process of making molasses syrup in the open with horses turning the vat in circular movement was eagerly watched by children on the way to and from school. Men and women in Rockville who have passed the eightieth milestone distinctly remember the delicious "lollypop" stalks given to the youngsters. The waste was sold for fertilizer.

The operation of making sorghum syrup at the factory on West Street is of interest. The juice was extracted from the cane by machinery and evaporation. The cane was very easily grown, and ordinarily yielded about 200 gallons of syrup to the acre. Farmers brought their cane to the mill.

Nathaniel introduced progressive methods in his farming, and tried successfully experiments in the raising of tobacco. He was a public-spirited man and for several years served the town as selectman and then for several years as Superintendent of Public Streets. While in that office, however, he was smartly spanked by public opinion when in February, 1898, he was actually arrested and convicted for violation of a city ordinance in not keeping the middle road of the tripled terraces in proper condition to insure public safety. Attorney Tingier issued the warrant, and superintendent Nathaniel Root Grant had to pay the costs, $11.41. The city later apologetically refunded the costs.

Frank Grant, son of Harlow Kingsbury Grant, was born in 1839 in Rushford, New York, but came to Rockville in 1849. When a boy he attended school on West Street. He served Chauncy Hibbard as clerk for several years; was later employed by Joseph Selden, mill owner and merchant; in 1862, he was secretary and treasurer of Leeds Mill; conducted a business in painters' and builders' supplies on East Main Street for thirty years; was director and vice-president of Rockville National Bank for forty-one years. In 1888 he built the elegant house on Union Street now owned and occupied by Dr. Roy Ferguson. For nine years he served in the State Militia. He was the first treasurer of the City of Rockville in 1889.

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the west district of Rockville began to grow. The actual number of families living there was thirteen, of which number six were Grants. Here the first schoolhouse in the West District was built, known as the

Grant School, a little one-story building, which after a few years was converted into a soap factory, and later into a common barn. A few yards south was a wooden building—the Saxony—operated later by the Hockanum Company. Peter Wendheiser, who conducted a factory for making all kinds of furniture (everything in those days was made by hand) in 1867 built a commodious structure, nearly opposite the head of Windsor. The building was completely destroyed by fire.

Next to Wendheiser's store was that of F. B. Little, dealer in dry goods, groceries, crockery, boots and shoes.

## FACSIMILE OF ORIGINAL DEED

The original deed granted to Samuel Grant by the "Agents of the Proprietors of Bolton Lands," is now in the possession of Nathaniel R. Grant, a copy of which is given below:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That We, Timothy Olcott, Francis Smith and John Bissell all of Bolton, in the County of Hartford and Colony of Connecticut, Agents to the Proprietors of ye common and undivided land in Bolton, for and in consideration that Samuel Grant, of Windsor is obliged to convey and confirm to us, the said Timothy Olcott, Francis Smith and John Bissell, as agents of the proprietors aforesaid, all that right and title which said Grant now hath to a certain farm in Bolton formally granted to Thomas Bull and surveyed to him by one James Steel. In consideration aforesaid, we, the said Timothy Olcott, Francis Smith and John Bissell, for ourselves and in behalf of the proprietors aforesaid, to give, grant, bargain, convey and confirm unto the said Samuel Grant, and to his heirs and assigns forever, one tract or parcel of land lying in the township of Bolton, at the north end of said township, in quantity five hundred acres, bounded north on Windsor, commonly called Windsor Equivalent lands, the whole breadth of the town of Bolton, except one piece in the northeast corner of said Bolton, under the improvement of one Whiple, of about thirty acres; and said tract of land is to run soe far south from the north end of said Bolton, the whole breadth of said town, except the corner aforesaid, as will make five hundred acres of land; and abuts north on Windsor Equivalent land, east on Tolland, except the aforesaid corner on Whiples, south on the proprietors of Bolton lands, west on Windsor, to have and to hold said five hundred acres of land, as above described, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to him the said Samuel Grant, his heirs and assigns, forever. And we, the said Timothy Olcott, Francis Smith and John Bissell, for ourselves and in behalf of the proprietors aforesaid, do by these presents covenant, promise and grant, to and with the said Samuel Grant, his heirs and assigns, that we will defend the above bargained premises to said Grant and his heirs, against the lawful claims and demands of all and every person whatsoever; in confirmation whereof we doe hereto sett our hands and seals this 29th day of April, A.D., 1726. (Signed)

JOHN BISSELL,
TIMOTHY OLCOTT,
FRANCIS SMITH.

OZIAS PITKIN,
ISAIAH OLMSTED.

Hartford, April the 25th, 1726.

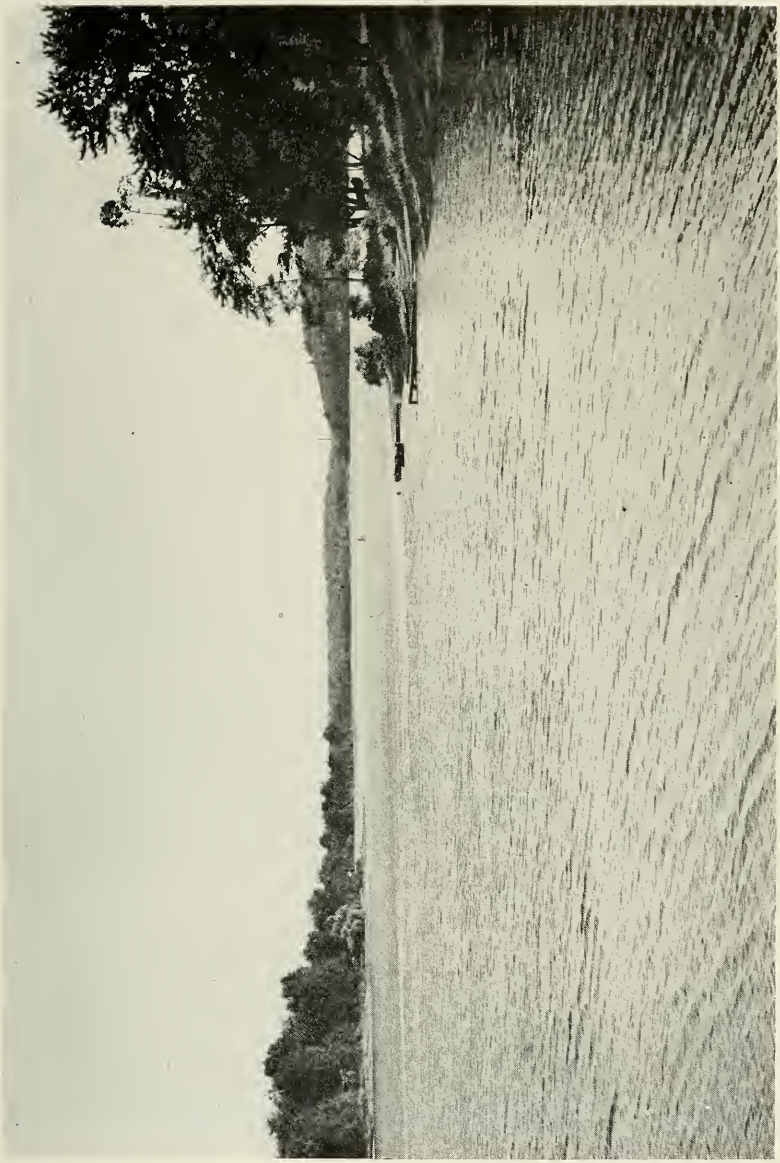
John Bissell, Timothy Olcott and Francis Smith, the subscribers to the above written deed, voluntarily appeared and acknowledged the same to their voluntary act and deed, before me,

OZIAS PITKIN, Justice of the peace.

(Indorsed)

Rec'd to be Recorded, April 30th, A.D., 1726, and Recorded the same at Large in Bolton Records, page 85.

JOHN BISSELL, Regstr.



LAKE MISHENIPSET

## LAKE MISHENIPSET AND THE CASCADES

The real source of Rockville's industrial growth and commercial development through two centuries may be traced to Lake Mishenipset, a gem of perfect beauty, unmatched by any other lake in New England. Without its water power, Rockville would have remained a mere gorge in the vibrant hills of Tolland.

*Snipsic* is all that is left of its original mellifluous Indian name *Mishenipset—Mishe*—big; *nips*—pool—the big pool, and even that, in keeping with the American fondness of abbreviations, has been further decapitated, and the man in the street, that convenient repository of popular opinion, now affectionately calls it "Snip."

This picturesque body of water, 2¼ miles long and one mile at its widest point, belongs to three towns—Tolland, Ellington, Vernon. The lake covers 553 acres, and the capacity of the full lake is 4,900,000,000 gallons. Its shores are indented with many little bays and coves, giving a pleasing irregularity of outline, while its surface is broken into tiny waves and ripples as the breeze passes over it. How enchanting to watch the playful rush of these rivulets, as they leap into the little coves, seemingly desirous of reaching the green hillsides, climbing the rocks, and disobeying the laws of Mother Nature! But they have a nobler errand—to carry over the falls the life-giving stream to thousands of toilers dependent on this never-failing supply.

Time out of mind, the Snipsic descends over ledge and rocky heights, falling, falling, falling in lovely cascades, emptying its treasure into the chalice of rocky earth, and triumphantly pursuing its winding way along the Hockanum, (Indian *hocquaun*—meaning hook-shaped or crooked river) to the mother of waters.

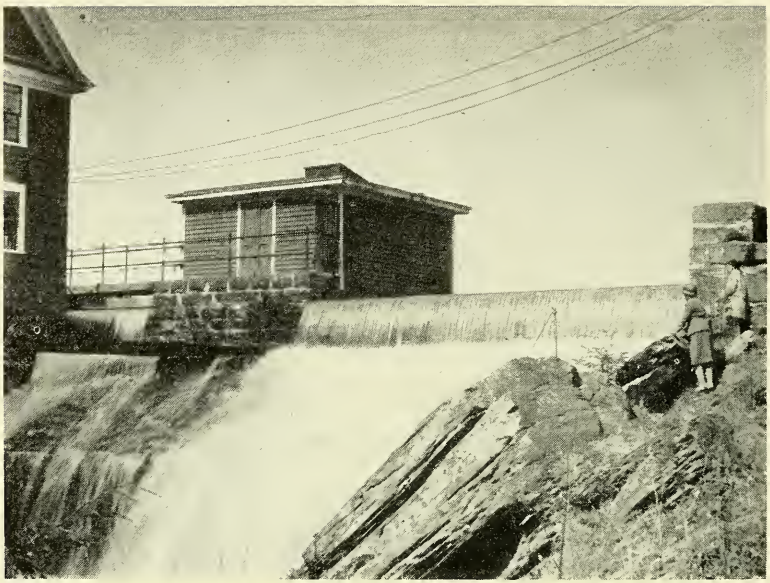
"Cotton Wool and Iron," a fabrics periodical, took time out to visit Rockville Mills in the year 1884, and on March 21 of that year reported:

> The water is first used at the Rockville warp mills with a fall of 16 feet. From this fall it empties into Paper Mill Pond, and from which it runs the silk mill of Belding Brothers with a fall of 33 feet. It next runs the Stockinet Mill, with a fall of 16 feet, and then empties into a very small pond that supplies the American Mills with 15 sets of machinery and a fall of 40 feet. The above 105 feet fall is within a distance of less than 300 feet.

> Next comes the Rock Company's Mill with its 27 feet fall and nearly as many sets of machinery. Next comes the Leeds Mill with its 22 feet fall owned by the Rock Company and in their yard. After this, and close by, is the White Manufacturing Company's Gingham Mill with its fall of 20 feet. Next and close by is the New England Company's mill of 9 or 10 sets of machinery on fancy cassimeres, which is run by a fall of 20 feet. White, Corbin and Company large envelope works comes next with a fall of 19 feet. Close by is the Springville satinet mill with a fall of 18 feet. The Hockanum Mill comes next with its 18 feet fall, and the Saxony close by, owned by the same company, with its 10 feet fall. There is still another mill down on the plain devoted to woolen goods, and containing 8 sets of machinery, with a fall of 24 feet.
>
> The close proximity of some of these mills to each other is remarkable, accounting for the great fall. It will be found by figuring up the different falls that they amount to 283 feet.

Mathias Spiess, of Manchester, Connecticut, a student of Indian lore for many years, informs us that the boundaries of three Indian territories met at Snipsic Pond: on the north and to the east was the Hipmuck country; on the west that of the Podunks; and to the south the Mohegan country. It was the custom of bands of Indians to journey many miles from their homes on hunting expeditions and make encampment near a lake or stream for months at a time. However, no full tribe was probably ever located in this vicinity, and when Samuel Grant began his adventure here in 1726, a few Indians only had erected their wigwams near Sucker Brook and had pitched their hamlets on the eastern slope of the pond, where a genial soil furnished the juicy roasting ears, and the waters provided an abundance of easily-caught fish.

Here for several years stood the hut of "Aunt" Sarah and Isaac Rogers. A pious, good-natured half breed, Sarah found favor among the few white inhabitants, who always generously filled her basket with tokens of kindness, when she made her customary tour of the villages. She used to bring small bags of sand and sell them to the women for sanding floors. Incidentally, there are several references in the old Bolton records to sand as a useful commodity. Sarah also brought grapes and other kinds of fruit for sale.



SNIPSIC DAM

A tract commending her excellencies was published by the American Missionary Society of Boston, Massachusetts, and though it perhaps exaggerated her virtues, it portrayed evidences of her good heart. A copy of the tract may be seen among the exhibits of the Ellington Public Library under the title—"Poor Sarah, or the Indian Woman." She lived on the eastern slope of Snipsic Lake, near Sucker Brook, and died in 1817. Her husband Isaac did not possess her lovely qualities. He was too fond of fire water. It was usual for him to walk along Market Street at an angle and unusual for him to remain perpendicular for any distance. One day he strolled off in his canoe on the lake and never returned.

We do get another glimpse of Indians through reminiscences of George M. Brown, who recalls that in the year 1844, before the Leader Office was built, there was a large pond called the Rock Pond, where there were fine fishing and skating. Writes Brown:

> "I have seen fine pickerel caught out of the pond by an Indian by the name of Ned Dolphin. He would fish from his boat with live bait and skitter it on top of the

water. He claimed that that was the way Indians fished for pickerel. A good hunter and fisherman, he could sound the warhoop and the Hoo Hoo, and would make all the woods around ring."

In the year 1834, the Rock Company purchased the mill property and all water power from the Payne family, built a rough stone and gravel dam, and put in a flume at a total expense of $548.79, of which sum $355 was for land flowage, leaving the actual cost of the dam $193.79.

In 1847, the owners of water power on the stream formed an association, purchased lands skirting the shores, and erected a substantial stone dam 13½ feet high, thus raising the pond an additional ten feet. The Aqueduct Company was first organized in 1847, with a capital of $7,000 and a board of officers consisting of George Kellogg, president, and Phineas Talcott, secretary and treasurer. Cement pipes were laid through all the principal streets and connected with all the mills. A reorganization of the company took place under a charter granted by the Legislature in the year 1866 with J. J. Robinson as president and J. C. Hammond, Jr., as secretary and treasurer, with an authorized capital of $40,000.

For some considerable time the owners of mills in Rockville and manufacturers on the Hockanum River in Manchester and East Hartford discussed the desirability of raising the dam again. Mr. David Hale, of New York, having purchased the Paper Mill property, took a lively interest in the suggested improvements. His proposal of a dam seventeen feet higher than the old one was at first treated as visionary, but its construction resulted in a change of the water level from six feet, which was originally suggested, to ten feet.

By the year 1880, Snipsic Lake became a popular summer resort. Half way up the lake is nature's best production—a 15 acre well-shaded grove of chestnuts, oak, pine, maple and birches. At this grove, all was activity in the summer season, beginning on Memorial Day. A big dancing pavilion, refreshment room, shooting gallery, bowling alley, automatic swings, the "teeters" and entertainments of the finest order were provided for visitors from all parts of the State.

For a number of years the proprietors of the grove, L. E. Thompson and his son, A. T. Thompson, improved the grove. They introduced steamers ranging in size from 21 feet to 65 feet in length, painted inside and out to look as gay as peacocks, and a

pleasure steamer 150 feet long, with a capacity of 200 passengers. There were moonlight dances on Friday nights. The large steamer left the lower landing every half-hour for the grove. The fare was five cents. Music was supplied by Shrier's orchestra. Tickets, including passage on the steamer, were one dollar.

Hundreds of people witnessed the sailing and rowing races. Names of boats for the yacht races were Carrie, Josie, G.G.B.M., Potato Bug, Ya Hoo and Yankee Doodle. The course was from Pine Island around two buoys placed at the northeast and northwest corners of the pond. For the sailing and rowing races—Hoo Hoo, Dido, Little Dinkey, Black Friday, Five R's and What I Know, were popular names.

Captain Thompson had all steam on in the kitchen at Snipsic Grove, amid the odor of fish, clams, bluefish, everything from chowder to melon. The dining room seated 100, with a large room supplied with pool tables, strength testers, weighing machines and a large pavilion, ice cream, photograph room, shooting galleries, merry-go-round, and swings, and a fine orchestra added to the attractions.

The winters were quite cold, and the ice on the lake was of sufficient depth to permit horse-racing attached to sleighs. Sports competitions attracted large crowds. Bert Ransom of tambourine repute and Frank Watts were prominent among the clever ice figure skaters of that era.

In 1886 a new dam was made 20½ feet high and the enlargement added 85 acres to the size of the pond. The whole expense

EXCURSION STEAMER

of this job was $35,000, making the outlay up to this time including the earlier improvements $50,000. In 1871 the provision against any drought that might arise was undertaken and completed. This added three feet more to the top of the pond, making the dam 26′ 6″ high, the present height. A wall five to twenty feet high on top of the ledge on the upper side of the dam to prevent an overflow when the pond is full to the brim or nearly so cost $15,000 which makes the entire investment of the Water Company $65,000. The granite dam is 63 feet, 6 inches across, a fine piece of engineering work.

The building of the Snipsic dam is a story of commendable enterprise, skilful forethought, hard work, brain and muscle.

On July 23, 1908, the State Board of Health gave an exhaustive report on the source of water supply for Rockville. Snipsic's water shed had on it 467 persons, 422 cattle, 116 horses, 77 pigs and 30 sheep. The committee found that the water supply was in danger of becoming a serious menace to health and recommended that the city look for another source of supply.

In 1913 the Water and Aqueduct Company did all they could to prevent any possible pollution of the water, but the health of the people had first consideration and the grove was abandoned as a picnic resort. The coming of the trolley brought to the lake people from out of town, and the popularity of the resort was regarded as a menace to the health of the city. So the Aqueduct Company bought up the grove property and it was closed. Bathing in the lake was prohibited on Thursday, April 26, 1894.

## THE ATTRACTION OF THE TANKEROOSEN

The early settlers of the town found opportunities for manufacturing enterprise in the water power furnished by rapid and constant streams. Shenipset rushed out of its placid lake in twin cataracts: one, the Hockanum poured down the wild and rocky glen where its channel lay amid huge boulders and tangled underbrush; while the Tankeroosen, tumbling southward, also offered a challenge to daring manufacturers.

The common wants of a new settlement naturally suggested mills for making lumber and meal, to supply immediate demands. Grist mills were of prime importance: wheat, rye and barley must be converted into flour for daily use. It is, however, now impossible to determine the date at which grist and saw mills were first erected in town but it is known that the Grants built a grist mill on the site of the Snipsic mills at an early date, and it is also believed that they built a saw mill much earlier, a little below the Springville.

The first mill erected was a saw mill built at Valley Falls in

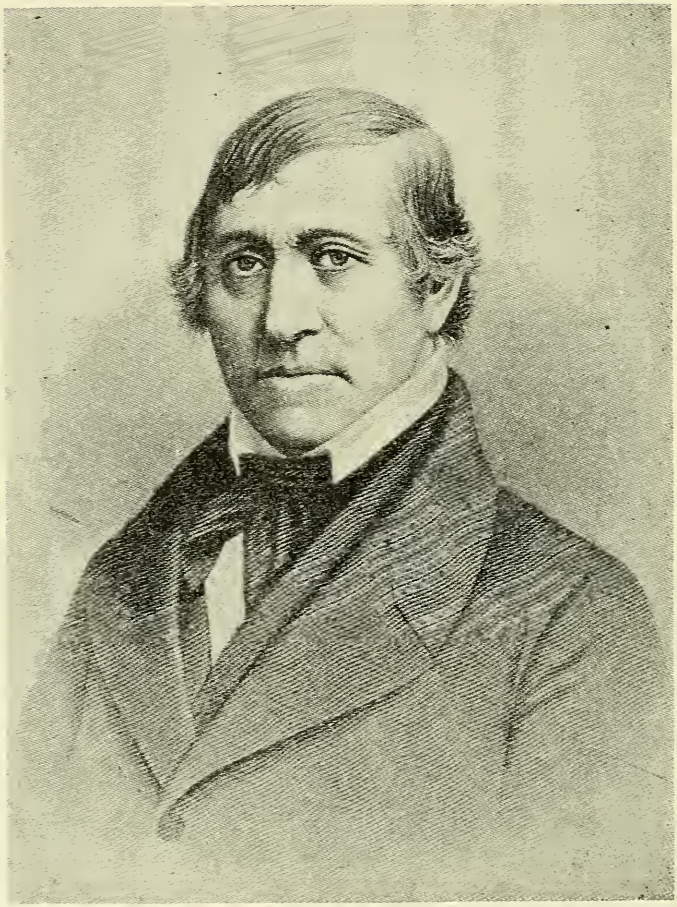
GRIST AND SAW MILL ABOUT 1885

1740. In that year Thomas Johns started such a mill on the little trout stream that comes down the gorge between the hills from the south, and discharges itself into the Tankeroosen. This mill was altered in the year 1790 to an oil mill for the manufacture of linseed oil from flax seed, and was owned and operated by Joseph and Samuel Carver, and Zekiel Olcott of Bolton. Woolcarding and spinning machinery was also operated by the same power, and was owned by David Walker, Norman W. and Solomon Carpenter at the place later known as Centerville. In 1774, Mr. W. Woolcott, of East Windsor, built a saw mill, which in 1789 he sold to Stephen King, whose heirs in 1809 sold to Peter Dobson, James Chapman and Chester King.

Mr. Dobson came first to Suffield, Connecticut, in 1808, but was attracted to Vernon, where in 1809 he purchased property located on the Tankeroosen River in a ravine between the Talcottville bridge and the Vernon bridge. Thus, in the year Abraham Lincoln was born, the manufacture of cotton goods began.

Peter Dobson was a remarkable man. He was born in Blackburn, England, and emigrated to America when he was 25 years old. Settling in Vernon, his house was the third from the corner on Route 30, near Dobsonville school house, he was the first to show a manufacturing interest there. He set up the first cotton spinning machinery in the town. A genius in manufacturing, he had had great difficulty in getting out of England. There were stringent laws in those days, preventing skilled manufacturers from emigrating. Mr. Dobson was carefully hidden in a hogshead which was rolled on board ship. It was bored full of gimlet holes to give him fresh air. After the ship had sailed out of the harbor, he was released from his unpleasant and uncomfortable surroundings. It was this kind of ingenuity that marked his New England enterprise.

While Peter Dobson was constructing a building in the ravine, he began work with Samuel Slater in Warburton's mill (later Talcott Brothers and now Aldon Mills.) These two men were among the first to operate cotton mills in America. Indeed, Samuel Slater is known as the father of cotton manufacturing. While at Warburton's mill, Mr. Dobson spun cotton yarn from raw stock carded by Alexander McLean in one of the Warburton mill buildings. The yarn was given out to neighborhood housewives who, using cumbersome looms, wove the cloth by hand under Peter Dobson's guidance. He was the first manufacturer to create his



PETER DOBSON

own designs, and, under his tutelage, a variety of cloth, including shirtings, sheetings, tickings, diaper cloth, checks, and ginghams was created.

While excavating for the foundation of his cotton factory he was greatly intrigued by the abraded condition of many of the boulders. This unusual condition Mr. Dobson attributed to their being suspended and carried in ice over rocks and earth and under water. He addressed a letter to the London Geological Society in which he advanced the theory that the boulders of New England had been abraded by moving glaciers in some pre-historic age.

In an Anniversary address before the London Geological Society in 1842, Sir Robert Murchison gave credit to Peter Dobson as "the original author of the best glacial theory." He said:

> "His clear, short and modest statement entitled, 'Remarks on Boulders' contains the essence of the modified glacial theory at which we have arrived after so much debate. His calculations were based on boulders weighing up to 15 tons, dug out of clay and gravel, when making the foundations for his own cotton factory in Vernon."

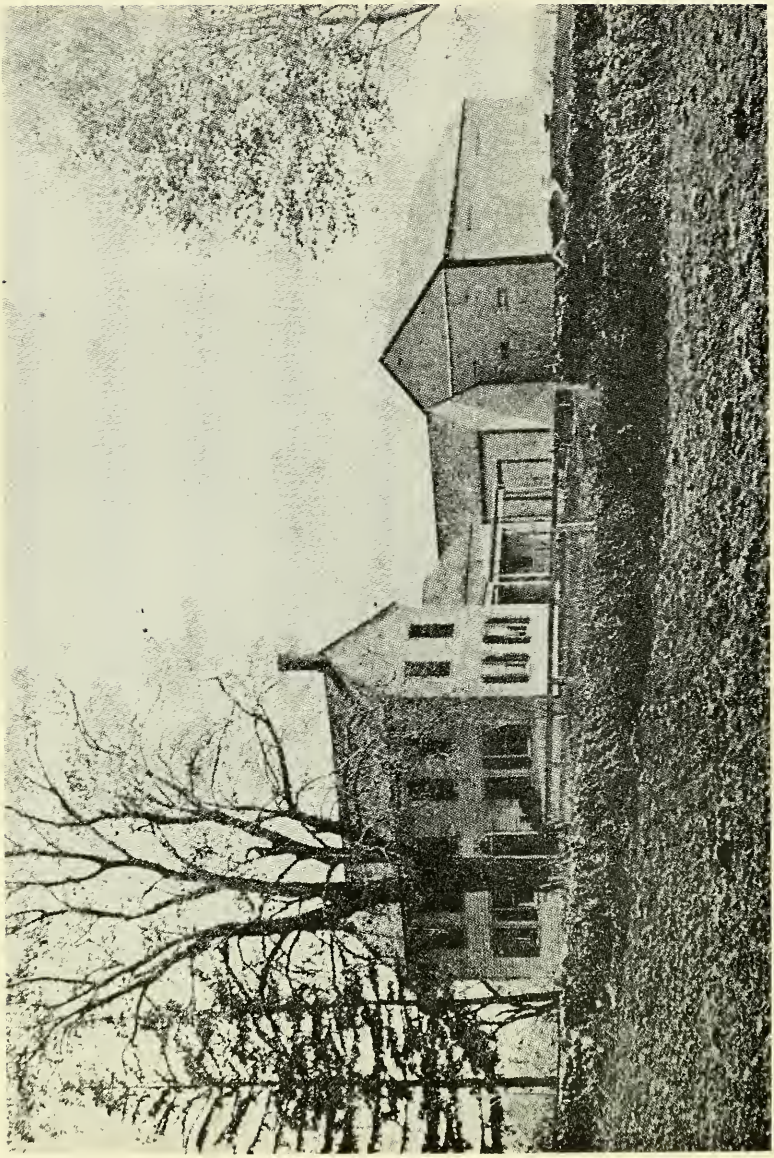
It is remarkable that this Vernon manufacturer should gain such renown for the advancement of such an important geological theory.

The Ravine Mills, a title as casual as a timetable, were ready by 1811, and with the help of a common blacksmith and a joiner, Peter Dobson had two mules of 192 spindles each to put into operation for weaving. He set up and ran a cold indigo vat producing a fast blue color for checks and stripes. It was not uncommon for whole families to be outfitted in the same blue and white cloth. This mill made pants, vests, coats and overcoats for men and boys, and coats and sometimes dresses for the women.

In religion Peter Dobson was a free thinker, in politics a democrat, in social relations an estimable citizen of the strictest integrity and the highest sense of honor. His mind was like a reservoir, welcoming the rain, ever eager to serve a larger purpose. He died at his home in Vernon at the age of 93 years, and Dobsonville is named after him.

## DELANO ABBOTT'S DISCOVERY

In this same period, a man named Delano Abbott, a farmer, who lived in a house situated next to the old Vernon Railroad



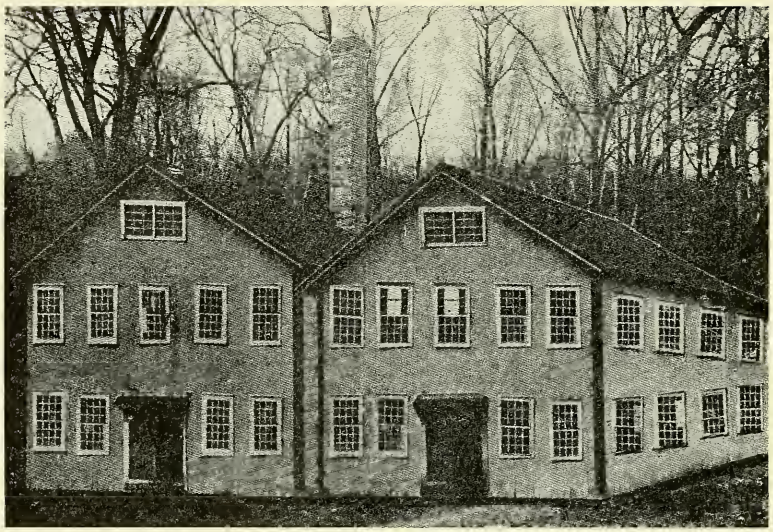
HOUSE WHERE WOOLEN MANUFACTURING BEGAN

Depot and now torn down, purchased in Nichols Store near the ferry in East Hartford a wool jacket. Obtaining more of the material, he took a scrap of the cloth to Peter Dobson. Unravelling it, they studied its design and weave. Delano Abbott persuaded Peter Dobson to make a billey for roping and a jenney for spinning and other preparations for the manufacture of this lightweight wool cloth. This led to the making of satinet, the beginning of woolen manufacture in the town of Vernon, in the year 1812.

Delano Abbott operated this simple machinery in his home, introducing the making of satinet in the United States. The business became somewhat encouraging, and being a little straitened for room in the house, as well as to secure water power, the machinery was removed to a shop erected on a little brook running at the rear of the dwelling later owned by Lewis A. Corbin. About this time Doctor Scottoway Hinckley also engaged in manufacturing the same kind of goods. These, without doubt, were the initial steps in the manufacture of satinets—leading to the distinctive business of Rockville's woolen manufacturing.

Ultimately Colonel McLean and Doctor Hinckley became associated with Mr. Abbott in the business. This was the day of small things, no doubt, and this was a small enterprise, but it led directly to the permanent establishment of woolen manufacturing in Rockville.

Eighteen-hundred-and-fourteen witnessed the introduction of the manufacture of satinets in Rockville. Ebenezer Nash, a nephew of Delano Abbott, who during the war manufactured wood screws at a place near Thompsons' Wadding Mill, found at the close of the war of 1812 that his occupation was gone, and stimulated by the success of his uncle Abbott, also decided to set about the manufacture of satinets. Choosing his location in the north part of the town of Vernon, which was then a wild glen of rocks and decayed hemlocks and underbrush, he erected a small building on the site of the old Hockanum mill. Here he started two sets of cards, some spinning machinery and a few hand looms. Some machinery was also placed and operated in an ell part of his dwelling house, which is now standing, and well known by old residents as the Simon Tracy house. It is the second house west of the bridge on Windsor Avenue, on the north side of the street. Mr. Nash lost his mill by fire. A new company was formed, consisting of Ebenezer Nash, John Mather and Lebbeus B. Tinker,



TWIN MILLS

who built the one, and afterwards the other of the so-called "twin mills." One of these mills still stands. This establishment constituted the total of woolen manufacturing in Rockville until the year 1821.

The Ravine mills continued to manufacture woolen goods, first under its founder, then under the leadership of Peter Dobson and his son John. It was later purchased by Hilliard and Smith who made flock shoddy and wool extracts. In 1882 Jesse Smith assumed the business and in 1886 Hilliard & Company took possession. It eventually came into the hands of Miner White. On October 12, 1909, very early in the morning, the Ravine Mills burned and were never rebuilt.

Peter Dobson and his son built another mill next to the bridge in Vernon. This burned, but they rebuilt it in 1873. This mill was used for making cotton warp and sewing twine, and later for cheesecloth and tobacco cloth for shade-grown tobacco. A number of people were employed there, and what is now Campbell Avenue was then a footpath through the woods used by employees going to and from work. The mill passed into John Dobson's hands and later into the ownership of Rienzi Parker and John Parker, who later sold it to Paul Ackerly. During Mr. Ackerly's ownership a large brick section was added to the building. In

addition to its manufacturing uses, this brick section was often the scene of a Community Christmas party or a children's party given through the courtesy of Mr. Ackerly. In the late 1920's Mr. Ackerly removed his business to Georgia, and the property passed into the hands of Talcott Brothers. For a long time the buildings lay idle, and then in the late 1930's they were torn down.

Another mill which later became a branch of these mills was the one known as the Phoenix mill on what is known now as Phoenix Street, opposite the end of Maple Street, Vernon. It was established by Stephen Fuller. Discovering a beaver dam there, he decided to make use of it as water power. Colonel McLean purchased it in 1808, and built a saw mill there. He also moved a grist mill from its location near Frederick Walker's mill, somewhere in the Valley Falls District, and an oil mill from East Hartford. Later this last-mentioned building was removed to Rockville and used by the New England Company as a wheel house. Colonel Francis McLean sold the mills to William Baker and Harvey W. Miner, and in 1836 they sold to a company known as the Phoenix Mills Company who built the largest of the buildings and manufactured cotton warp. In 1879, the business was purchased by James Campbell and Rienzi Parker, who at that time also ran the Dobsonville mill. The Phoenix Mills continued to be a branch of the Dobsonville mills. In the latter years of Mr. Ackerly's ownership, the Phoenix Mills were used only as a storehouse, and in the late 1920's the buildings burned and were never rebuilt.

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## BLAST FURNACE AND IRON FOUNDRY

A small mill on East Main Street, Rockville, where the Minterburn Mill now stands, was built as early as the middle of the 18th century. Here, too, was a blast furnace and iron foundry. There was nothing pretentious about the iron works, but we know that in conjunction with Phelps' furnace at Stafford Hollow, cannon balls were made during the Revolutionary War. Indeed, while George Washington prayed on his knees for victory at Valley Forge, strong and loyal citizens in these small factories answered his petitions with gun barrels and locks for musket guns carried by the Army.

And the skill and competency of these workmen matched their patriotism. Because of unusual ability, a certain Mr. Foote became superintendent of the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts and a Mr. Nash was engaged in an equally important position at the arsenal at Harper's Ferry.

Leonard Chapman, an early settler here, and a member of a large family of iron workers, has left on record the following statement:

> "My brother Abrel was employed as an armorer at the old iron works in Rockville. I visited the works many times. There was a forge and a trip-hammer, which were used to weld scrap iron for gun barrels. There were a great many damaged barrels and bayonets among the scrap iron. At that time the barrels were taken to Springfield to be bored and stocked."

## THE ROCK MILL

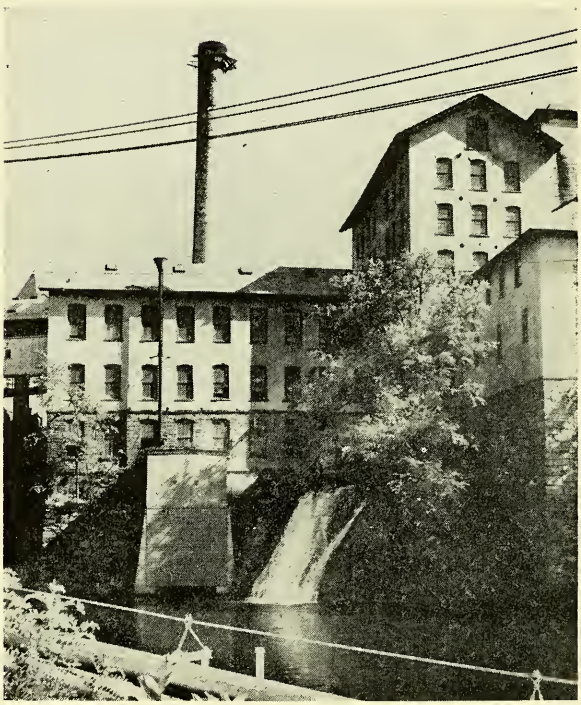
Francis McLean, born September 26, 1777, at Vernon, was the genius who built the first important mill in Rockville for the making of satinets. Having sufficiently matured his plans for a large factory in the spring of 1821, he purchased land of the Grant heirs and formed a partnership with George Kellogg, Allen Kellogg and Ralph Talcott. All energies were bent to the task of building with their own teams and their own brawny arms a solid stone dam across the stream which would stand as an enduring structure of strength, if not of beauty, and they won their way toilsomely with heavy oxen and clumsy carts.

FRANCIS McLEAN

The canal called in those days "McLean's Ditch" was dug, the wheel pit located and the power determined by simple but accurate processes. There were no mechanical miracles then. Spirit levels and delicate precise mathematical instruments were not yet in use, but a marvelous ingenuity supplied their place. A level was improvised by taking a piece of scantling six or eight feet in length, with one straight edge and grooved to hold water. And with this level on the shoulder and a bottle of water in the pocket plus a skill uncanny and a tenacity incredible, Francis McLean made his wheel.

In the meantime timber was cut from the adjacent hillsides, and the building was erected without delay, 80 feet long and 30 feet wide, and three stories high, which was regarded as a mammoth building a century ago.

Nature immediately challenged the stability of the structure, for the night after the factory was raised there came a very destructive storm—a cyclone—which extended from northern Massachusetts down through Central Connecticut. The Rock factory stood the test and within a year three sets of woolen machinery



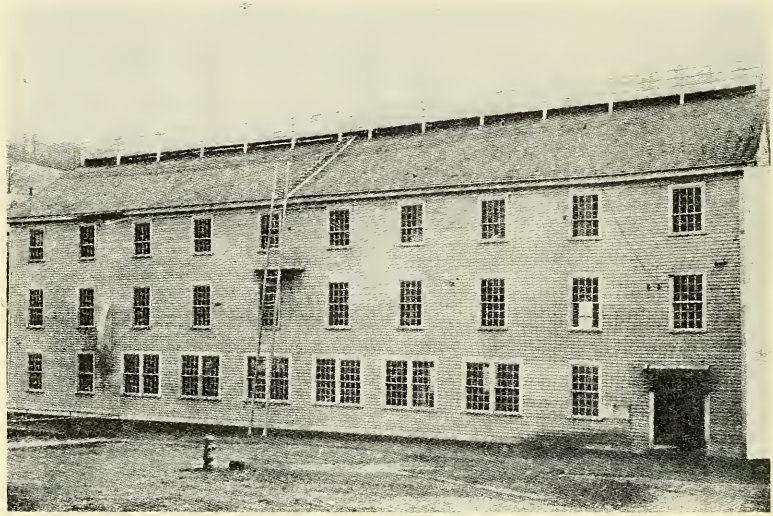
OLD STONE MILL

were at work making satinets—blue and blue mixed, and black mixed. Condensers, jacks and power looms were unknown until 1823, and even then were so imperfect that Wm. T. Coggswell and David Beach, local carpenters, were able to improve upon them with a loom which was purchased by many mills.

A brief chronicle penned by a native of Tolland, Dr. William A. Grover, living in the sunset of his life at San Francisco. described vividly this Rock Mill:

> "I well remember when Colonel Francis McLean commenced and built the factory called the Rock factory of Vernon, Tolland County, Connecticut, for the reason that my father had the contract for building the same. It was built of chestnut timber, hewed and framed at our house in Tolland, carried to what is now known as Rockville, and put together. It was an exceedingly plain building, without any ornamentation whatever and painted red. It was an exceedingly lonely place, and there was not another building from Payne's mill to the Rock building in the vicinity except a few buildings for the accommodation of the laborers. It was the commencement of the great and beautiful city of Rockville, and Colonel McLean was looked upon as the enterprising pioneer of that now beautiful city. I have no means of giving the exact date of the building, but there was neither a mill nor the ground broken for one in the vicinity. For the sake of water power it was built in a deep ravine, and the picture of the rapid stream with its falls as it poured over the precipitous rocks, the deep gorge surrounded on all sides by sunny hills, with the red mill in the center, has never been erased from my memory. There was a man by the name of Phineas Talcott who used to come to my father's house on business relating to this mill. He might have been connected with the Colonel in this enterprise, but we always regarded the Colonel as the pioneer and moving spirit of the whole matter."

Pioneer Francis McLean was a versatile man. He had innumerable facets of interest. He built the Frank Mill largely from the timbers of the First Church in Vernon; erected a paper mill and three houses; surveyed and laid out the road from the paper mill to Ellington; straightened the road from Ellington to Vernon; improved the roads from Vernon to the Coventry line, and from



OLD ROCK FACTORY

Dobson's factory, later Centerville, to Minor Preston's house. His favorite studies were arithmetic and surveying. He taught school at the age of 17, distinguished himself in military training, and was the father of 13 children.

Full of energy, life and ambition, he remained in the harness until the age of 77. He did not shirk military duty and was but 18 when he started in. As he tells it:

> "I was a soldier first, then was chosen corporal, then sergeant, then orderly sergeant, then ensign, then lieutenant, then captain, then major, and then colonel. I went too fast from one office to another for my own good. I was captain of a company eight years, was major two years, commanded a regiment, the seventh company as Colonel one year."

In the year 1846, the Rock Company built a new mill for the manufacturing of cassimere, still continuing to run for a while the old mill, but it had nearly done its work—its shell indeed was sound, but its vital energies had well nigh given out, and consequently in 1851, it slowly and gracefully retired into obscurity, giving place to an extension of the more pretentious new mill.

## WARBURTON'S MILL

In Talcottville was begun one among the earliest manufacturing enterprises of the country. "Warburton's mill," which commenced in 1795, was widely known and celebrated all over this section of New England for its eagerly sought stocking yarns and thread. John Warburton was an Englishman, and came to America in 1792 from the same English town as Peter Dobson, Blackburn. The method by which he built his mill illustrates that he was unafraid to work.

WARBURTON'S MILLS

He used what money he had in the building and machinery, expecting that the people would render him assistance in building the dam, but they, not believing that he would succeed, would not help him, and he was obliged to move the gravel necessary to complete it with a shovel and wheelbarrow. His next trouble was to obtain help. He lived in the mill because he was not able to rent a house, and to relieve his wife from the care of the babies and give her an opportunity to spin cotton, he built a large cradle with machinery for rocking it. This new way of caring for babies so interested the people of the neighborhood that many visited the mill to witness the operation of this new piece of equipment. John was a self-winding model of versatility. The yarn which he spun was in great demand. His sales yielded a large profit, and money was plentiful with him for the first time in his life. Two large brick Warburton houses still stand in Talcottville. The one on the east side of the river, conspicuous for its four chimneys, was

built in 1810, and became the Warburton Inn, but was abandoned many years ago. Warburton's son, John, built the second a few years later on the west side of the river. This was sold four years ago by John Talcott, Jr., to Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Sullivan, who have thoroughly remodelled it.

John Warburton was of a liberal and somewhat convivial disposition, and was accustomed to dispense his free hospitalities in the most profuse manner, a hogshead of Jamaica rum being at one time kept on tap in an open shed by the roadside, free to all comers. This style of living, however, undermined his success as well as his health.

In 1804, he had built a shop and started some wool carding machines on the lower privilege, and in 1809 he sold his entire mill property to Colonel Francis McLean, Lebbeus B. Tinker, Irad Fuller and Alexander McLean, who operated the works through the War of 1812, when they sold it to Thomas Bull of Hartford. Of him, N. O. Kellogg, Esq., bought the lower privilege and wool carding works in 1817, and afterwards the upper privilege and mill in 1833 of Henry Hudson of Hartford. Mr. Kellogg began to spin woolen yarn and weave by hand in 1819, and in 1822 introduced power looms.

It has been difficult to unravel the mysteries of the Warburton family because there were at least two John Warburtons and at least three Mary Warburtons. The family relationships seem to be as follows. The John Warburton, who came from England in 1792 and settled in Vernon, was born in 1772. He apparently brought his mother with him, for a Mary Booth Warburton died in 1811, aged 72 years. John married a Mary A. Warburton about the time of his arrival in this country. We have a record of the death of a Betsey Warburton, aged 4, daughter of John and Mary Warburton in 1797. To further complicate matters, they had a son John (with no distinguishing middle initial!) who also married a Mary (Smith). Our first John died in 1810, and his wife Mary apparently went to St. Louis with her son John, and Mary Smith Warburton, returned to Hartford in 1833. This Mary A. Warburton died in Hartford in 1844.

The name of Warburton is memorialized in a chapel building in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1865 Mrs. Mary Smith Warburton, wife of John Warburton, the son of John Warburton, the Englishman who settled in Vernon, built, at a cost of $18,298, a chapel on Temple Street, on land purchased by the subscriptions of indi-

WARBURTON'S INN

vidual members of the First Church for $3,450. In 1873, an extension of Warburton Chapel, a building designed for the use of the primary department of the church school, was made.

Warburton Chapel is now St. Anthony's Mission and still stands on Temple Street. It shines in a dark place, and its beams guide many to useful careers.

## TALCOTT BROTHERS' MILLS

The upper mill of Talcott Brothers was built in 1834 and demolished by the freshet October 4, 1869, and the lower mill was burned in the same year. Thereupon the two water privileges were consolidated and a new mill erected.

The name of Talcott has long been a prominent one. The family all descended from John Talcott, who came from England. He came to Boston with others of Reverend Thomas Hooker's family. Joseph Talcott, one of the descendants of John Talcott, was chosen governor of Connecticut in 1725 and held that office for 17 years.

The village, known as Kelloggville in the early days having been purchased by Hon. N. O. Kellogg in 1856 for Horace W. and Charles Denison Talcott, is included in the town of Vernon. The appearance is always immaculate with mill, store, dwellings of puritanical whiteness.

The manufacture of union cassimeres was carried on here for many years. A stock company was organized in 1856, with Talcott families and their heirs being the stockholders. The product was principally satinets up to 1875, when a change was made to union cassimeres. In 1907, a grade of fine woolens was added to the line. In 1882, H. G. Talcott became general manager, and M. H. Talcott became associate manager. John G. Talcott entered the firm in 1895 and C. Denison Talcott in 1903.

The Talcotts first became interested in the mill, which had originally been owned by the Kellogg family, when Horace G. Talcott went to work there in 1856. He later induced his brother, the late C. Denison Talcott, to give up school teaching and join him in the manufacturing business. The Talcott Brothers eventually bought the interest of Mr. Kellogg.

During the Civil War the company manufactured blankets for the soldiers of the Northern Army. The village of Talcottville grew up around the mill. Following the deaths of the older Talcotts,

the mill was managed by the present C. Denison Talcott and his cousin, the late John G. Talcott. The latter manufactured fine woolen goods and the business prospered until the depression of 1929.

A few years ago C. Denison Talcott sold his interest in the village houses to John G. Talcott, Jr.

The mills successfully operated for many years by the Talcott family were purchased in 1950 by the Nodevac Realty Corporation of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. (Nodevac spelled in reverse is Cavedon), Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cavedon being the principals with Sidney Silverstein as officers of the Aldon Spinning Mills Corporation, and organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut on January 15, 1951, with the following comprising the Board of Directors:

President—Gladys K. Cavedon, Manchester.
Treasurer—Gladys K. Cavedon, Manchester.
Secretary—Sidney Silverstein, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, with Carl W. Christianson, of Slatersville, Rhode Island, a member of the Board.

The plant has since 1951 been operated by the textile company registered with the Secretary of State as the Aldon Spinning Mills Corporation, occupying mill buildings, land and water power. The reported purchase price paid for the property is $150,000.

Several major changes and improvements have been made by the Aldon Company since operations were started in 1951.

## THE FRANK MILL

Colonel McLean, having closed his connection with the Rock Mill, straightway went at another enterprise with characteristic energy and success. Taking with him Alonzo Bailey, who in 1823 had come from Columbia, Connecticut, to Rockville, with his wardrobe under his arm, and who since that time had been the "blue dyer" at the Rock, organized a Company, and built the Frank Mill in 1831. The frame work of a portion of this mill was originally the frame of the Vernon Meeting House. The Colonel had an idea of a certain fitness in moral equilibrium and therefore transported his "gin still" buildings, and they became barns, tenements, etc.

The new Frank Mill started with six sets on cassimere in 1847. The mill was architecturally the finest building at the time in the

village but was consumed by fire in September, 1851. A still finer and larger building was erected on its site in 1864, which became the Florence Mill.

## THE AMERICAN MILLS COMPANY

Just east of the business center of the city stood the American Mills, one of Rockville's industrial landmarks. The goods manufactured have figured prominently in bringing fame to Rockville as the home of fine woolens and worsteds. In addition to its regular line of the fancy worsteds for men's wear, the Company manufactured standard and fancy carriage cloths of most novel effects in fancy weaves and beautiful colorings in whip cords, Bedford cords, wide and narrow wales and diagonals.

The year 1847 witnessed the building of the American Mill by Phineas Talcott. Mr. Talcott was distinctly a man of affairs.

AMERICAN MILLS

As agent of the Rock Mill, president of the railroad company and of the Savings Bank, he was a splendid example of the powerful virtues of our fathers.

When the American Mills were built the lumber was brought from Fulton, New York to Rockville. Here it was framed on School Street, on the school yard, and set up in the presence of many onlookers.

## THE PAPER MILL

A paper mill was built in 1833. Colonel McLean was part owner, but the venture was unsuccessful with a loss of $13,000. In the panic of 1837 he lost heavily by signing papers for others. This grim epic of adversity he overcame by courage and determination, endurance and adaptability.

The building was 103 feet long by 38 feet wide, brick and stone, basement 1½ story, posts of wood. It contained four engines that carried 125 pounds of rags each, also one 64-inch Fourdrinier machine. The mill contained other necessary machines, presses, boiler, etc., for making paper for books and other printing material. Sixteen hundred pounds was considered a fair day's work, the engines running 24 hours. There were two houses of two tenements each for the use of the paper mill, one still standing. The first name of the establishment was "Falls Company," afterwards incorporated under the name of "Vernon Company." The mill continued to run until 1840. It then made an assignment of all its effects for the benefit of creditors.

It was one of the earliest paper mills in Connecticut and was erected on the site later occupied by the Belding Silk Mill. It was owned by Hale Brothers, proprietors of the New York Journal of Commerce. For years, the paper upon which the New York Journal of Commerce was printed was furnished by this mill. J. N. Stickney, who married one of Mr. Hale's daughters, was manager of the paper mill here.

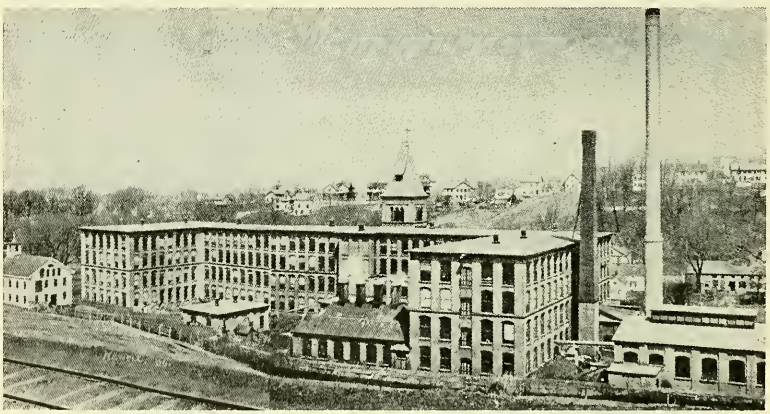
## THE SPRINGVILLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The Springville Manufacturing Company was nearly contemporaneous with the Rock Manufacturing Company. Though one of the smallest of the woolen industries of Rockville, it was one of the most successful.

The story of the beginning and development of the Springville Manufacturing Company is the story of Chauncey Winchell who was born February 25, 1796, in Berlin, Connecticut. His parents being poor and having a large family, he was hired out to a farmer by his father until he was 17 years old, his father taking his wages. Trained in habits of industry, economy and self-reliance, he developed a vigorous physical constitution.

In his seventeenth year he went to Manchester, Connecticut, and obtained work in a mill in the village of Buckland, working there several years, learning the trade of a mill-wright.

In the spring of 1829, Mr. Winchell came to Rockville and in partnership with Willard and Halsey Fuller on the 1st of April, 1829, bought from Francis McLean his oil mill, then located on the mill privilege later occupied by the New England Company. This mill like many at that period in different parts of New England was for grinding flax seed to make linseed oil. In it Mr. McLean manufactured linseed oil about three years. On its purchase by the Messrs. Fuller and Winchell, it was equipped with cotton machinery, carding, spinning and warping, and was at once devoted



SPRINGVILLE MILL

to making warps for satinets. Willard and Halsey Fuller were both practical cotton spinners and devoted their personal time and labor to the mill. Mr. Winchell, besides investing some capital, aided such work in construction and in repairs as he was competent to do. On the 28th day of February, 1832, he sold his interest to Halsey Fuller and on the 4th of July, 1832, in association with Alonzo Bailey, Christopher Burdick and Isaac L. Sanford, purchased the property afterwards known as the Springville mill.

Christopher Burdick had recently come to the village and was employed at his trade as a machinist in the machine shop of the Rock Manufacturing Company. Isaac L. Sanford was a practical woolen manufacturer. The business was conducted at first as a partnership under the style of the Springville Maufacturing Company. Alonzo Bailey was the responsible manager of the business and Isaac L. Sanford was the superintendent of the mill.

The original mill was a small building thirty feet long and twenty feet wide, having a basement of brick and two stories of wood. It was torn down on the purchase of the property by the Springville Company the last of the original mill structures of Rockville, after an existence of sixty-five years.

At the May session of the State Legislature for 1833, an act of incorporation was granted to the proprietors, the style of the firm being retained as the name of the company and the capital authorized being $100,000. On the first of October, 1833, the individual proprietors conveyed their personal interest in the mill and other property to the Springville Manufacturing Company for the aggregate sum of $4,800 and on the 12th of the same month, the organization was completed by the election of its officers, Chauncey Winchell being elected President, and Alonzo Bailey, Agent and Secretary. The salary of the latter was fixed for the first year at $1.25 a day and board.

The capital stock was $4,800 in twelve shares of $400 each. Alonzo Bailey subscribed for four shares, Chauncey Winchell, four shares, Christopher Burdick for two shares, and Isaac L. Sanford for two shares. The success which attended the early operations of the company may be inferred from the fact that for the first three years after the organization of the company, dividends were declared, in January, 1835, $125 per share, in January, 1836, $325 per share, in January, 1837, $600 per share, an aggregate in three years of $1050 per share, or two-hundred and sixty-two and a half per cent.

In 1838, a new mill was erected, 85 feet long, 34 feet wide, basement stone, first story, brick, and two stories of wood. Alonzo Bailey acted as agent and treasurer till January, 1860.

In 1844, Chauncey Winchell became superintendent of the Springville mill and held that office until 1849. He was succeeded in the office by his son, Cyrus Winchell, who was born in Manchester, Connecticut, in 1821.

At the annual meeting of the Springville Manufacturing Company in 1860, Alonzo Bailey declined a re-election as agent and treasurer, and on the 25th of January of that year, sold all his shares of stock. Cyrus Winchell was elected at the same meeting agent and treasurer, and held both offices until the transfer of the property and franchise of the corporation to the Hockanum Company, which was made in January, 1886. Chauncey Winchell held the office of president during its whole history of more than fifty-two years. His home still stands at the corner of West Main Street and Orchard Street, and the old Springville Mill may still be seen, pushed unceremoniously back into the rear.

## THE HOCKANUM

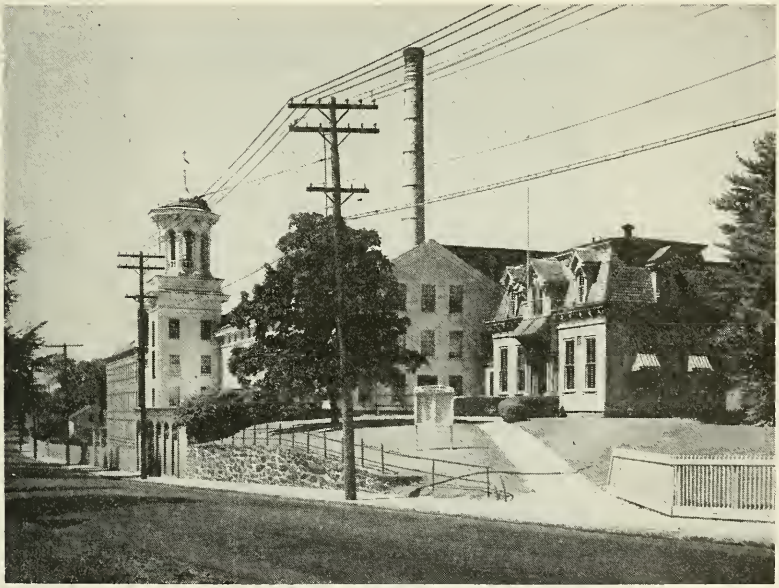
The "twin mills," built by Ebenezer Nash and Delano Abbott became the Hockanum Mills which was organized May 31, 1836. The original incorporators were: Lebbeus P. Tinker, President; Alonzo Bailey, Secretary; Austin Holt, Agent; Ralph Talcott and Bickford Abbott. Their capital was $7,500. This mill continued the manufacture of satinets. In 1854 this mill burned but was soon rebuilt, and in 1869 George Maxwell became its president, secretary and agent. Under his able leadership the plant made great progress. Upon his death, in 1891, his son, Francis T. Maxwell, became president and treasurer. One of the Twin Mills is still standing, at the foot of Morrison and River Streets.

## THE NEW ENGLAND MILL

In 1836, Captain Allen Hammond with George Kellogg built the New England Mill. Mr. Kellogg, who had stood shoulder to shoulder with Colonel McLean and Ralph Talcott through their early struggles for success, now undertook another enterprise. Calling Captain Allen Hammond from his farm on Quarry Hill, he made the New England Mill a fact with himself as agent and Mr. Hammond superintendent. This was like all the manufactories preceding, it was also a satinet manufactory. It was burned in the autumn of 1841, and rebuilt during the fall and winter fol-

KELLOGG LAWN

The house at the extreme right was the Pember home. The next house was the Maxwell home. All these buildings were demolished when the Maxwell residence (now the City Hospital) was built.

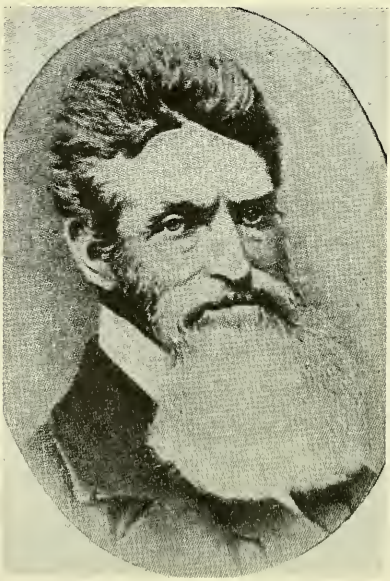


HOCKANUM MILL

lowing. Business was rather poor at the time. The burning of the New England Mill was a great loss for Rockville, but far greater to the owners. They had an insurance of $16,000, which was cheerfully paid.

It is an ill wind that blows no good. The making of cassimeres in Rockville commenced in the rebuilt mill, and proved to be an advantage over satinets. No other cloth than satinets had been made in Rockville. The new mill was fitted with machinery for fabricating fancy cassimeres, which was an entirely new branch of the woolen business, requiring a much higher degree of skill in the workmen, and affording as the event has shown, larger profits. Its introduction began an era in the history of manufacturing in Rockville. Captain Hammond was the first man in Rockville who learned the mystery of setting up a loom chain to make a figure in weaving.

Prior to this time, the only goods manufactured were cotton warps. The New England decided to commence the manufacture of all-wool fancy "kerseymeres," and had the new looms from the original George Crompton. It was from Mr. Crompton that Captain Hammond learned designing. The New England Company's looms turned out the first all-wool "fancies" made in America.



JOHN BROWN

## JOHN BROWN

John Brown, of Ossawattamic fame, immortalized in song and story, was a frequent visitor to the New England Mill in its early days. He purchased wool for the company when George Kellogg (Uncle George) was agent. With the utmost confidence in his honesty, the company advanced him money with which to purchase wool in the West.

On one occasion $2,800 was placed in his hands for that purpose, and the receipt for the same remained in the possession of Mr. J. C. Hammond, Jr., for many years. Unfortunately, John Brown became financially involved and wrote a letter explaining the situation, dated at Franklin Mills, August 27, 1839, and addressed to George Kellogg, Esq., agent of New England Manufacturing Company, Vernon, Connecticut.

There was not yet any post office in Rockville. The letter was written on a piece of paper unruled, nearly the size of a sheet of foolscap. Envelopes were not used at that time, and the letter bears the marks of the prevailing style of folding and also the wafer and the marks of the letter seal on the wafer. The figures 25 are doubtless the amount of the postage. The letter was dated about four days before mailing, due perhaps to limited postal facilities.

In the letter John Brown humbles himself, and the whole sentiment is that of regret at not being able to pay at that time and a promise of doing all in his power to liquidate. In his will he named the sum of $50 for the Company.

John Brown was born in Torrington May 9, 1800. He was executed for treason, murder in the first degree and criminal conspiracy with slaves by Governor Wise, at Charlestown, Virginia, December 2, 1859. The North, however, considered him a martyr and a saint, and the bell on the old First Church of Rockville was tolled out of respect to him.

John Brown was related to Dr. Herman Humphrey, once president of Amherst College, and to the Rev. Luther Humphrey. They were his cousins. The heroic magnitude of mind with which he accepted his fate is found in the following letter:

Charlestown, Jefferson County
Virginia
19th November, 1859

John Brown to his cousin
Rev. Luther Humphrey
From the Jail:

I neither feel mortified, degraded, nor in the least ashamed of my imprisonment, my chain or my near prospect of death by hanging. I feel assured that not one hair shall fall from my head without the will of my Heavenly Father.

I shall be sixty years old were I to live to May 9, 1860.

Your affectionate Cousin,
John Brown.

Herman Humphrey, D.D., a graduate of Yale, was President of Amherst College twenty-two years (1823-45). During that time he also held professorships in the fields of Sacred Theology, Moral Philosophy, and Metaphysics.

Luther Humphrey graduated from Amherst College in 1836; he attended the Madison Union Theological Seminary in the year 1840-41 and was ordained a Baptist minister in Lorraine, New York, on July 13, 1842.

## THE LEEDS MILL

In the year 1836, Phineas Talcott, Ralph Talcott, Aaron Kellogg and Hubbard Kellogg built the Leeds Mill, which later became a part of the Rock Mill. The Leeds Brick Mill continued until 1864. That year, the magnificent 5-story building was purchased and business moved there. The Company was organized February 2, 1880, with Samuel Fitch, founder, Chancey H. Strickland and Spencer S. Fitch. There may be seen the old stone arch and key stone dated 1864, indicating the site on which the Leeds Mill was built.

## THE EARLY ENVELOPE INDUSTRY

The envelope industry had its beginning in this country in a number of places, all at about the same time, one being Rockville. The Envelope Shop is still an important part of the history of the city. As far as can be determined, the White, Corbin Company a hundred years ago was the first envelope manufacturer in New England, and one of the very first in the United States. In Worcester, Massachusetts, there were several envelope folding machines in the process of development; one by Dr. Russell Hawes in 1853, which was found unsatisfactory, and two other experiments by James Arnold and James Ball, of Worcester, during the period of 1853-1856, which were not patented.

Cyrus White, the founder of White, Corbin and Company was born in Richmond, Vermont, November 18, 1814, and died at Rockville, May 10, 1891, aged 77 years. He was reared on a farm in the frugal tradition of self-help.

In 1836, when 22 years of age, Cyrus White made an engagement for employment with a man in Ware, Massachusetts, but his prospective employer died suddenly, just a few hours before he arrived. He thus found himself among strangers with only $3.00. By chance he heard of a prospective opening at Vernon Centre and joined a driver who was taking a herd of cattle to Vernon. He obtained work as a blacksmith and remained there until sometime during 1838. He desired to start in business on his own account and planned to locate at Rockville as that town gave evidence of growth, and a little later, he was able to purchase the blacksmith shop and business of Elizur S. Hurlburt in Rockville and with a cash capital of a little over $100, started in business.

In July, 1849, Cyrus White bought for $1,700 a half interest in a foundry owned by Wm. R. Orcutt, Mr. J. N. Stickney buying the other half interest for a like amount. The inventory of the property outside of the real estate was $108.00. They also assumed notes and accounts payable of $1,446.27, making the entire amount of their investment $4,954.36. In 1850, a machine shop was added to the foundry.

When Mr. Wm. R. Orcutt came to Rockville, he brought with him an ingenious young man by the name of Milton G. Puffer, a pattern maker and blacksmith by trade, who at once found employment with Cyrus White in his pattern and blacksmith shop

and through this connection, Rockville is indebted to Mr. Orcutt for its Envelope industry.

The making of envelopes by machinery was in the minds of many men and White and Stickney proposed that Mr. Puffer, who had shown inventive ability, build for them an envelope machine, he to own one-third interest and the firm to own the other two-thirds. Discouraged at the slow progress of the invention he went to Windsor Locks and abandoned for the time being the project. On February 5, 1853, Mr. Puffer returned to Rockville, finished the envelope machine and operated it for a short time. But while it made envelopes after a fashion, it was not a mechanical success.

Mr. Puffer at once went to work on his second machine, the first machine being consigned to the scrap heap. We have no knowledge of what it was like—all we know is that it was constructed on the rotary principle, which was the dream of every envelope machine inventor.

Mr. Puffer made some improvements in the mechanism of his machine, and also made a double machine, that is, two machines were combined. The machine had two folding boxes. It was, in fact, two machines mounted on the same frame. By this improvement, the production of each operative was practically doubled, now being about three thousand per hour for the double machine. Still, the machine was not a self gummer. Other inventors were at work in various parts of the country, and in due time the Berlin & Jones Company, of New York, brought out a new machine which did more and better work than the Puffer machine. White, Corbin & Company bought one of the New York machines and this almost broke Mr. Puffer's heart.

When the Berlin & Jones machine was delivered at the White, Corbin and Company factory, Mr. Puffer experienced great difficulty in running it, so a girl was sent up from New York to operate the machine, and she demonstrated the success of the machine. This was a hard blow to Mr. Puffer, and seeing that his machine had been passed by in the race, he pathetically said nothing, but taking his hat and coat left the factory, never to return.

In 1866, Mr. Prescott assumed the active management of the White, Corbin & Company.

In 1895, three years prior to consolidating with other envelope manufacturers into what is now the United States Envelope Company, in 1898, the local company of White, Corbin & Company

UNITED STATES ENVELOPE

headed by William H. Prescott employed 100 hands and produced 1,000,000 envelopes a day, working ten hours a day including Saturdays.

Now much antiquated machinery has been replaced with modern machinery, enabling the local plant to turn out 3,000,000 envelopes a day or 15 million each week in six working days, including various sizes of Bag Envelopes on a machine made by the Holweg Company of Strassburg, France, that the local company installed six to eight months ago, with a production of 15,000 per hour. The local company now employs approximately 225 people.

## THE JAMES J. REGAN COMPANY

The James J. Regan Manufacturing Company were manufacturers of knit goods, cotton yarns and woven goods, and dealt in woolen stock of all kinds. Born in the town of Stone, Staffordshire, England, James J. Regan emigrated to America while still a boy. He began business in East Willington, Connecticut, and came to Rockville in the early 1860's, working for a time in the Rock Mill, and later as overseer of the carding in the Windermere Mill.

While at the Windermere, he invented a flock cutting machine, a great improvement on anything existing at that time.

He began business on his own account in 1869, the year of the great flood, renting rooms in the old Stone Mill. About 1875 he again started in the shoddy business, occupying the old carriage shop on Vernon Avenue. Then he removed to the Florence Mill on West Main Street, where he continued for nearly sixteen years. Business so increased that in 1891, on the death of Cyrus White, he purchased the Glasgow Mill, adding the business of making knit goods, woolen cloths, etc. His two mills were equipped with all the latest machinery and all modern improvements throughout. He died in 1897. He had a name for sound business principles and honesty of dealing, and was prodigiously industrious.

Announcement was made on February 13th, 1935, that the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company had been sold, and on Thursday, March 7th, Herbert J. Regan, last male member of the family passed away.

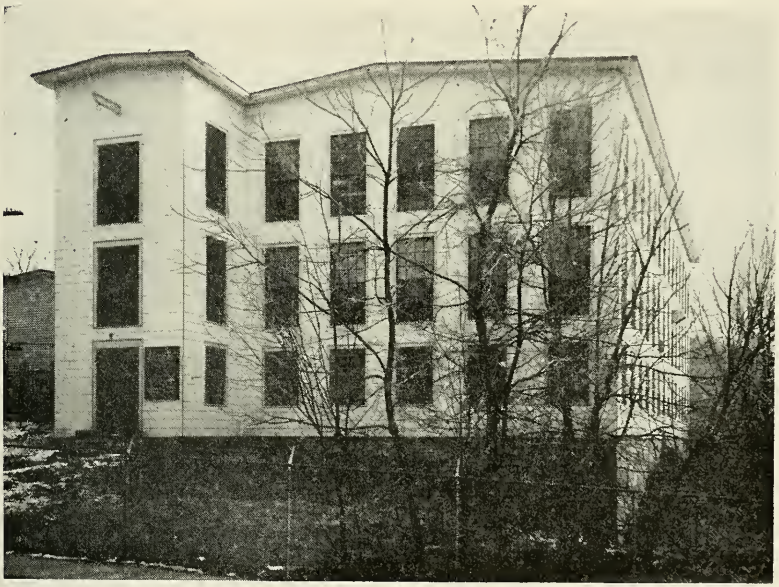
For sixty-seven years the city and its people had reaped much benefit from what was started here by the founder, James J. Regan, in 1868, and later carried on by his sons, Francis J. and Herbert J. Regan.

James J. Regan left behind at his death a name for sound business principles and honesty of dealings that is an honor to his posterity.

The business was incorporated in June, 1898, at which time Francis J. Regan was made President and Treasurer. "Colonel Frank" had a long and thorough training in the business, of which for many years he was the responsible head.

The beginning of this great textile business was small, the "old stone mill" being the original building used. A short time after 1868, the business was transferred to Daleville where Mr. Regan purchased a mill and began operations.

Upon leaving the stone mill the Regan plant was moved into the Florence Mill where it remained several years. Business increased so rapidly, however, that in 1891 Mr. Regan purchased the Glasgow Mill at the west end, which was operated until his death on August 6th, 1897.



THE KINGFISHER CO.

## THE STORY OF THE KINGFISHER

Elisha J. Martin, born in Tolland, October 12, 1845, attended the District Schools, was reared a farmer boy, and occupied with agricultural duties until he enlisted in the Civil War. In the army he made an excellent record as a courageous soldier.

Returning from the War, he was engaged for a time in the carding room at the Rock Mill. Then he was night watchman at the Silk Mill of Belding Brothers, and in 1875 worked in Simonds Silk Mill. While there he invented a machine for the clearing of silk by means of which much labor and material could be saved. Martin suffered an injustice in this matter as many another inventor has done. The Simonds Company claimed the invention as their own, and Mr. Martin not having the financial means to fight for his rights in the courts laid the matter before A. N. Belding, of Rockville. The result was a compromise—the patent right was divided with the Simonds Company.

Elisha J. Martin entered the employment of Belding Brothers in the Spring of 1877. Here he began to make braided eye-glass cords as a pleasant occupation, and finally began making braided fish lines for some of his friends, procuring a braider for the purpose. Soon after, on account of the popularity of these lines, he decided to try a business in that direction. So he rented a room in Belding Brothers Mill, and entered extensively into this line.

Fifteen years later, the business had grown to such proportions that he found it advisable to have more room and built the factory on Mountain Street in 1894. The development was wonderful, the product of this factory being known all over the United States as "The King Fisher," a feature of it being a secret process of enameling, which added to its durability while not in the least detracting from its flexibility and preventing any knotting or kinking of the line. Wherever placid lakes lure the disciples of Isaac Walton the name of Kingfisher is known.

The factory was the pioneer in the development and the making of parachute cord at the time of the first World War, and has continued with this work ever since, until during the second World War the production was tremendous. The factory not only made parachute cord for human chutes, but merchandise chutes, flares and other types, both of nylon and silk; also powder bag cord which was used to tie the powder bags used in the large Navy

Coast Defense Guns, and this was made of silk because of its leaving no residue ash, thereby preventing any backfire in the guns when the breech was opened. This was made in great quantity without a single rejection throughout the whole war. In fact, it was estimated some time ago that the production during the war period was over fifty million yards of nylon and silk cord, and nearly one-third of a million yards of rayon. In other words, enough cord was made to reach all the way around the world and beyond Honolulu besides, taking the starting point at the plant in Rockville.

After the death of Elisha J. Martin in 1899, his son, A. Leroy Martin, conducted the business, and under his able management production more than doubled. He was very active in community affairs, a lover of sports and generous in heart. Everybody knew "Roy."

## THE MANUFACTURE OF SILK

Belding Brothers and Company are silk manufacturers of world-wide reputation. The history of the rise and progress of these manufacturers of machine twist, sewing and embroidery silks, following through their years, reads more like romance than reality.

It dates back to about 1857. At that time E. K. Rose, associated with other gentlemen, introduced the silk business into Rockville. His operations at first were limited—for some time four girls constituted his entire force of laborers, until the Belding Brothers became identified with the business.

Hiram H. and Alvah N. Belding, who had worked on their father's farm in Belding, Michigan, began peddling sewing silk from house to house, using their brother, Milo, who lived in Ashfield, Mass., as a purchasing agent. Their business grew to the point that, in 1861, several teams and wagons were necessary.

In 1863, they established a house in Chicago, and in the same year, they formed a partnership with E. K. Rose. The Belding Bros. & Company began operations in Rockville in what was then known as the Glasgow Thread Mill. The business thrived, and in 1865 a sales office was opened in New York City. In that same year they bought an old paper mill, tore it down, and built a fine new factory.

The partnership with Mr. Rose, who was a poor manager, proved to be an unfortunate one. He speculated heavily in stocks, and the partnership was dissolved. Liabilities of $235,000 did not,

however, force the Beldings into the bankruptcy courts, where they might have found easy relief. They managed to pay off all their debts, thanks to moral courage and the financial ability of Milo Belding.

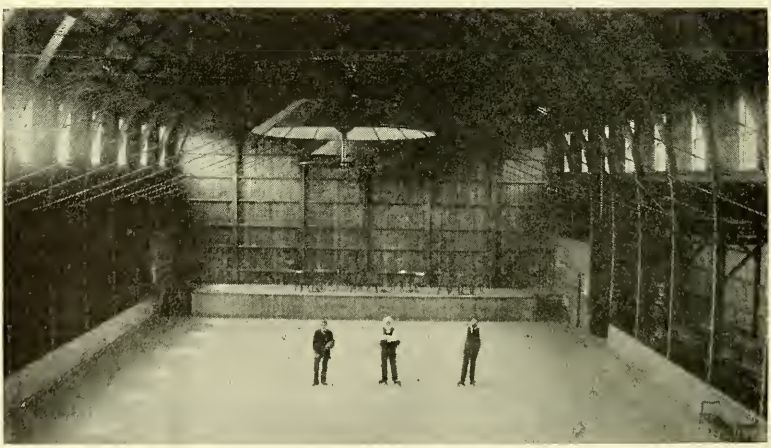
In 1870, Belding Brothers & Company bought the Rose Silk Mill and machinery paying $41,000 for it. Additions were made to this mill, and in 1909 a large stone mill just across the stream which furnished water power was purchased.

The year 1876 saw expansion in two directions. They purchased a plant in Northampton, Mass., and began work there. They also began operations in Montreal, Canada.

With factories at Rockville, Northampton, Belding, and Montreal, and with sales offices in all the large cities of the United States from New York to San Francisco, Belding Brothers and Company was, at its peak of success, one of Rockville's most extensive industries.

Belding Brothers & Company merged with the Hemingway Company in December of 1925, and in 1927 the Belding-Hemingway Co., sold its land, buildings and water rights to the Keeneys of Somersville, Connecticut.

In 1936, the property was leased from the estate of Lafayette Keeney by the American Dyeing Corporation, and bought by that company in 1948.



OLD SKATING RINK

## SAMUEL FITCH & SON COMPANY

During the year 1854, Samuel Fitch, at that time traveling for the Hazardville Powder Company, intuitively saw the future of Stockinet, and immediately took steps toward the beginning of an industry which resulted in the manufacture of a variety of plain and mixed knit goods of various grades and weights, embracing cotton, woolen, plushes, and "eider downs."

Stockinet is used for almost unlimited purposes, for lining rubber goods, and for under and over garments—Eider down is used almost exclusively for opera cloaks, ladies' and children's outside wear. And the various shades in this product are simply beautiful.

Samuel Fitch began traveling for the Enfield Powder Company as early as 1839, and for fifteen years peddled powder throughout the New England States. Then he began manufacture of Stockinets in 1854 at West Stafford. He had little capital, and business was operated in a small way.

In April, 1867, he brought his stockinet mill to Rockville and started business first in rooms in the old Glasgow Thread Com-

SAMUEL FITCH & SONS CO.
(in center) Later Purchased by the Hockanum Mills

pany's Mills remaining there until Cyrus White took possession of the property, when it was transferred to the Leeds Company's brick mill.

In 1874, Mr. Fitch bought the Carlisle Thread Company's property on East Main Street and owing to the large demand for the products of the mill the business increased rapidly. Unfortunately, the next few years proved very disastrous for business in general, and the stockinet trade suffered.

In 1889 a joint stock company was formed with Samuel Fitch as President; Spencer S. Fitch, Vice-President; and George G. Smith, Secretary.

The products of this corporation became celebrated and its stockinets, eider downs and plushes could be found in the leading markets of the United States. The J. J. Regan Company purchased the entire plant in January, 1899.

J. J. Regan sold the Rockville Worsted Company to Edward and Thomas Corcorans. They sold it to George Daniels, who moved to Brookfield, Massachusetts, and the Hockanum Mills Company bought it.

## THE FITCH BUILDING

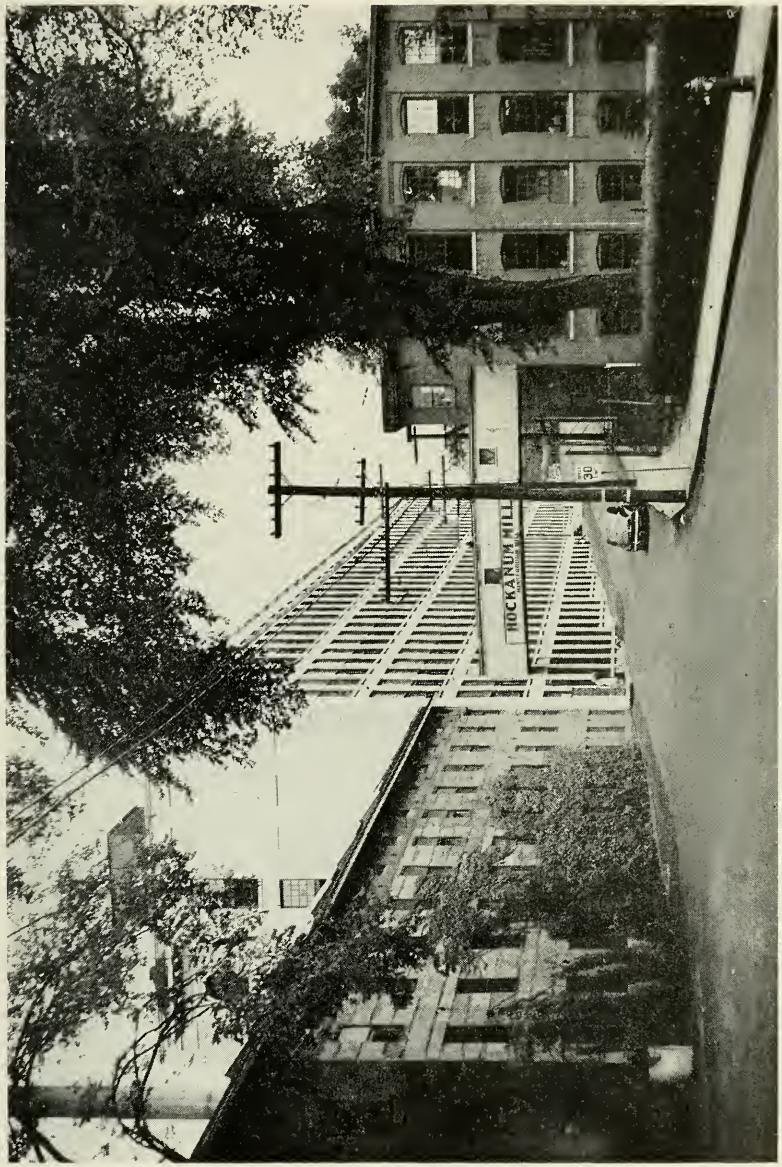
The finest and best equipped business block in Tolland County is located on Union Street, immediately adjoining the Union Congregational Church and is one of the two fine buildings which arose phoenix-like from the ruins of the disastrous fire of April 3, 1888. It was erected by Samuel Fitch, first mayor of the city, and one of its leading manufacturers.

The building is three full stories, with basement, substantially built of brick with rough brownstone trimmings. The first floor contains six spacious and finely arranged stores with plate glass double fronts.

The second floor is devoted to offices, residence flats and two lodge halls.

On the third floor was located one of the finest photograph galleries in Connecticut, fully equipped, and residence flats and halls.

Decorating the top of the building is a large stone Phoenix, the Egyptian bird famed for its ability to rise to a new life out of the ashes of its own death. Samuel Fitch exemplified the Phoenix in erecting the present useful building out of the ashes of the old popular skating rink and the home of the famous State League Polo Team.




MINTERBURN MILL

## THE MINTERBURN MILLS COMPANY

The Minterburn Mill was built in 1906 on the site of the old Rockville Warp Mills Company. A handsome concrete construction, it is the largest mill in the city—300 feet long by 56 feet wide and five stories high.

This mill was built by the Maxwell and Sykes families. The Maxwells also owned, at this time, the Springville, the New England and the Hockanum Mills. And in the year 1906, the holding Company for the four mills was formed and called the Hockanum Mills Company.

It was in the year 1934 that the M. T. Stevens and Co., bought the Hockanum Mills Company. This company operated the four mills until 1951, when the community was stunned by the announcement that the mills could not be profitably operated, and would be closed.

## THE SAXONY MILLS

The Hockanum Mills Company bought the Saxony Mills on West Street from the James J. Regan Company in 1933. The property included a modern two-story building erected in 1920 in which the carding and spinning departments were housed, and the old building which has a high basement, two stories and an attic. The original building is one of the oldest mill buildings in town, with old wooden pegs being used in part of it.

## NEW INDUSTRIES

The American Dyeing Corporation was incorporated as a new company in November, 1936, and began operations in Rockville, Connecticut, in processing of rayon piece goods primarily to be used as linings in clothing and luggage.

The Prsident of the Corporation, and major stockholder, was William Horowitz who came to Rockville with many years of experience in the weaving industry and the dyeing industry as the principal guiding force in the H & H Manufacturing Company and its affiliates located in Quidnick, Rhode Island. Associated with him was Abraham L. Brooks, now Vice-President of the Company, and Nat N. Schwedel, Treasurer.

Upon his graduation from Brown University, Mr. Horowitz's son, Ben Horowitz, in June of 1938, also joined the company, and upon the death of William Horowitz on May 4, 1952, became President. The property occupied by the company was owned at the time of leasing by the Estate of Lafayette Keeney of Somersville, Connecticut. It had remained idle from 1928 to 1936, and

AMERICAN DYEING CORPORATION

previous to that had been owned by the Belding-Hemingway Silk Company.

The property was purchased from the Estate on February 3, 1948, and many additional sections have been added to the property as expansion requirements demanded.

In 1941, an affiliated corporation was formed in Cranston, Rhode Island, under the name of the Bellefont Dyeing Corporation, and under the same management and ownership The Bellefont Dyeing Corporation in 1944 moved to Fiskdale, Massachusetts, in the Town of Sturbridge, where it is now located.

The Massachusetts location concentrates upon the dyeing and finishing of rayon piece goods in lining fields; the Rockville, Connecticut plant has branched out into other fabrics, including rayons, acetates, combinations of rayon and acetate, nylon, combinations of nylon and cotton, dacron and orlon.

It operates its own laboratory for testing all new materials, for testing ingredients to be placed in the dyeing and finishing process, for the manufacture of all its own soaps and finishes. It operates its own machine shop for the repair of its equipment, and for the building of special equipment for special problems. It processes all its own steam and purchases only such electric power as is not generated by its own generating equipment.

It has recently become a licensee of the Deering, Milliken & Company, Inc., in the processing of "Milium," which is a treatment creating an insulated fabric. It is one of only two licensees in the United States authorized to do this process. In order to properly handle this new "Miracle" fabric, it has erected a new building exclusively for the housing of this process.

## THE GIFT OF A SWIMMING POOL

Upon William Horowitz's death on May 4, 1952, the William Horowitz Foundation, a charitable foundation that was formed by Mr. Horowitz and his associates some years ago, spearheaded a program both as a community project, and as a memorial to him, for the erection of a swimming pool, wading pool, and field house in Henry Park, owned by the City of Rockville.

Ground was broken on the anniversary of his death, May 4, 1953, and the project was presented to the City of Rockville as a gift of the community and the friends of William Horowitz. Its value is estimated at $100,000.00, and it is the first such facility available within the area.

EASTERN ALUMINUM PRODUCTS, INC.

Wholesalers of Alumnium Storm Windows

Incorporated under Connecticut laws, September 15, 1952

Norman B. Chase, President
Norma L. (Mrs. N. B.) Chase, Secretary
Morton Lieberman, Treasurer
Directors: The Officers

Estimated worth: $10,000.

KINGFISHER BRISTOL FISHLINES OF ROCKVILLE

Manufacturers of Fishlines and Parachute Cords

Incorporated under Connecticut laws, November 13, 1952

Incorporators:

Harry C. Miller
Charles F. Phillips
Sidney R. Pine

Partners:

Donald E. Fisk
John Mason
John Sweeney
Paul Sweeney
Samuel Gamble
John F. Dailey, Jr.

Authorized capital in 1951—$50,000 preferred and 100 shares common—no par value.

CENTRAL INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Formerly, The National Printing Company

Amel T. Bruneau, President and Treasurer

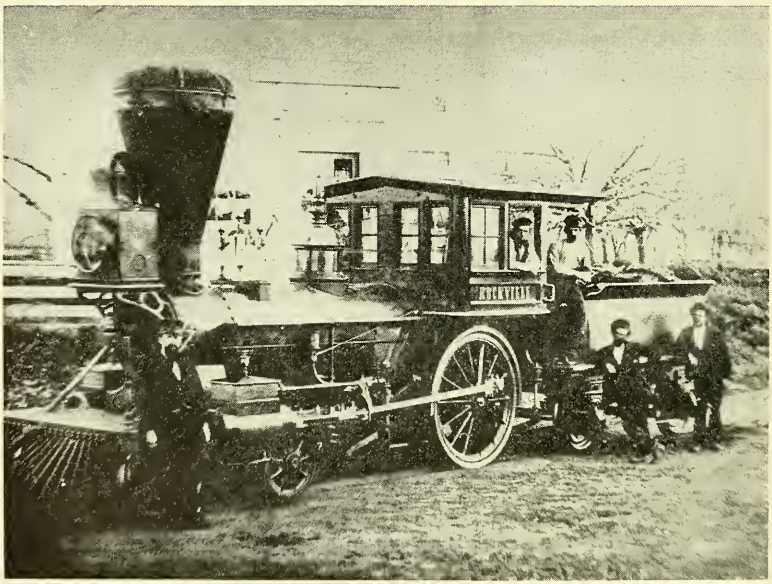
Mr. Bruneau purchased property at Brooklyn Street, but after a few years moved out of the city.

## BUILDING A RAILROAD

From the commencement of manufacturing in Rockville in 1821 until the opening of the Hartford, Providence, and Fishkill Railroad in 1849, all travel and transportation in and out of the town was by teams. Manufacturing agents drove to Hartford several times a week, in unpredictable weather, starting early in the morning, making numerous purchases of factory and family stores, doing a general errand business, and returning late in the evening after a hard day's work. Freight also had to be handled by team, though "Jim" King's fine six-horse team furnished a splendid equipment.

The railroad fever possessed the nation about the year 1840 and by 1851 the Erie had linked the Hudson and the Great Lakes. In 1849 the construction of the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad brought traveling facilities within a distance of four and a half miles of the village of Rockville.

Another generation of stage drivers followed the building of



FIRST ENGINE ON THE ROCKVILLE BRANCH RAILROAD

the railroad and a line was run from Rockville to Vernon Station, carrying the U. S. Mail. It was started by George Hammond who ran it for a few years and then sold it to Harvey King. King owned and occupied a portion of what is now St. Bernard's Terrace property. He was the proprietor of the stage route between Rockville and Vernon Depot. George Brown was the driver.

Besides this route he sent a stage to Warehouse Point through Ellington and Broad Brook to connect with the train from Hartford to Springfield, bringing back passengers from the town train, and also a stage to Tolland. Most of the drivers used four horses but there was one stage on which they drove six horses. These Concord stages cost from $1,200 to $1,600.

People felicitated themselves upon the improvement. But what a bore that four and a half miles of staging soon came to be considered. How passengers grumbled over the 15 minutes' delay in loading some half-score of passengers inside, and a like number indefinitely extended outside, accompanied by mountains of baggage and express packages! How miserable the drag over the hills in the heat, dust, mud, snow and rain, outside with no umbrella and in the dark with no lantern!

The intoxicating possibility of a railroad connecting Rockville and Vernon and thus cooperating with the larger trend became the subject of earnest conversation. Manufacturers saw cheap freight, better traveling facilities and increased trade. Finally, on a seasonable February morning in the year 1856, "Bill" Orcutt with his alert mind and engaging grin pleasantly invited Messrs. William T. Cogswell, Francis Kecney, J. W. Stickney and A. C. Crosby to join him on a tour of prospective inspection. William R. Orcutt was distinctly a self-made man. He started out as a boy with ninepence, bought a gun, and earned money by shooting game. He left a large estate.

Starting from Market Street, these shrewd and observant companions walked through the fields in a foot of snow to Vernon, considered carefully a logical route for a railroad, dined copiously at McLean's tavern, and returned to Rockville by another way. Their passion was as pure as the snow, but thin. Plans emerged from a survey made in the autumn of 1856 which occupied eight days at the microscopic expense of $45 (Orcutt paid $16 of that out of his own prodigal generosity). But the year 1857 brought a national depression, and the high hopes of a railroad were buried for a period of five years.

On October 29, 1862, when the first breath of winter was creeping over New England, the project was rescued from oblivion by the opening of several books of subscriptions which were taken up in two days by local citizens with the eagerness of men purchasing choice lots in the suburbs of Utopia. It was purely a home enterprise. On that same day a Company was formally organized by the choice of five directors: Phineas Talcott, Allen Hammond, George Kellogg, E. B. Preston and William R. Orcutt. Phineas Talcott was elected President, and E. B. Preston, Clerk and Treasurer.

The contract for grading the road was given to Messrs. Clyde and Griffin and the first shovelful of earth moved on the 26th day of November, 1862. During the winter the work was pushed, and on the 10th day of August, 1863, the completion of the road was celebrated by an excursion over the road to Hartford and return, and a bounteous dinner at Keeney's hotel in a delightful atmosphere.

The road was opened for regular travel on August 11, 1863. In the first year 150 passengers were carried each day, the amount of freight 17,400 tons, and Rockville was connected with the outer world by its four trains every day. The actual cost of road and equipment totalled $165,000.

The first train over the new railroad was run through to Hartford and conductor McManus of the Old Hartford, Providence and Fishkill road came out from Hartford to run that particular train. It was a great event. A large number of prominent citizens enjoyed the first trip over the road.

The first engine purchased was *Rockville* (nicknamed Betsy). It rested on six wheels. It had but four when purchased, the pony truck being placed some time later. The Betsy carried a very large and noisy bell which was out of all proportion to the rest of the engine, excepting perhaps the smoke stack.

The Betsy was a wood-burner, with a firebox so small that it was necessary to make two cuts in 4 foot wood to get it into the firebox, and it was necessary to keep one man at work sawing wood to supply the engine. A Mr. Ladd was known as the official sawer. A few people will recall little "Betsy" and Shenipset locomotives, nicknamed "teakettles."

At one time, hauling a single car, she made afternoon trips to Hartford. On the first trip entry into the capital city was unannounced. Emerging from the tunnel with hissing noises and the

ringing of the great bell, the old Hartford station shook with thunderous sounds. Everyone within hearing distance stood still and looked in every direction for the cause of the commotion. Most of the comments of the hostile crowd were not complimentary.

The crew consisted of Conductor Putnam who was not only the conductor of the train, but sold the tickets in the ticket office and made out the freight bills. Engineer Goldman had charge of the engine. George Brown was the baggage master at the station and on the train, and also acted as brakeman. Samuel Eaton was the fireman. Conductor Putnam remained in the employ of the road for many years, and after the close of his long term of service, Henry Vanness became conductor. The fare to Hartford was seventy-five cents. By the way, this branch railroad from Rockville to Vernon connected with trains going West to Hartford and points beyond and going East to Willimantic and points beyond.

There was also another railroad, Connecticut Central, that operated between Springfield, Massachusetts, and East Hartford, where it connected with the New England Railroad. On this road at the town of Melrose, there was a branch line from Melrose to Rockville through Ellington. This branch line is still in use for freight only from Rockville to Ellington.

The Rockville Company operated its own road for the first five years and then leased it to the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Company for five years at a yearly rental of $9,000. The Railroad was finally sold to the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad Company on April 25, 1903.

## HENRY VANNESS

The most popular official of the railroad was Conductor Henry Vanness, who, on September 1, 1864, when the railroad had been in operation only a year, entered the employ of the company as a freight handler, and continued in that capacity until 1866, when he was placed in charge of the switching crew at Rockville. His home was on Fox Hill. In 1868, he was promoted to baggagemaster, and in February, 1880, to pasenger conductor, in which position he served until May 4, 1907, when he retired on pension. He knew his passengers as well as Sam Clemens knew his river men and his pilots. Forty-three years of service with an absolutely clear record on his retirement won for him the regard, respect and good wishes of his associates and the entire community. So far as is

known, he was the only colored railroad conductor in the country at that time.

On January 1, 1880, about 40 of the businessmen of the city assembled at the Rockville House to present a badge to Conductor Henry Vanness as a token of the esteem in which he was held by the people.

The badge was of gold and enamel; the design was a ribbon border enclosing a miniature lantern; on the border the letters N. Y. P. & F., and at the sides *Semper Paratus,* all in blue and black enamel. The lantern had a red enamel globe, in the center of which was a small diamond for a light, the design representing the faithful conductor who never failed to have the proper signals ready in case of an emergency by day or night.

Ever polite, ever faithful, ever honest, ever accommodating, ever ready Vanness!

Panola—employs 50 operatives, makes satinets, jeans and warps, pay roll $1,500 monthly, has a steam engine which will run two-thirds of the machinery, and by its aid are running full time.

Belding Brothers Silk Mill—170 hands, monthly pay roll $3,500, thirty horsepower engine just introduced, by which the mill runs full time without the aid of water power.

Thompson & Dickinson Wool, Shoddy and Wadding Mills—employs 35 hands, pay roll $1,000, have an engine at the lower mill, and are thus but partially dependent upon water power. (Dickinson, of Witch Hazel fame.)

J. N. Leonard's Silk Mill—60 hands, pay roll $1,500, have a fine engine which will run all the machinery.

Carlisle Thread Mill—80 hands, pay roll $2,200, use team power for about one-sixth of the mill.

American Mills — fancy cassimeres — employ 190 hands, with a monthly pay roll of $6,000. They have averaged about five hours daily the past week, being dependent entirely upon water for power.

Rock Manufacturing Company—fancy cassimeres—180 hands, pay roll $7,000. Main Mill dependent entirely upon water, running their four-set mill with a thirty-five horsepower engine.

Fitch's Stockinet Mill—20 hands, pay roll $600; use only water for power, but are enlarging and refitting, and propose to put in steam if necessary when the improvements shall be completed.

Leeds Woolen Company—80 hands, pay roll $2,000, have only water power, and consequently run short time.

White Manufacturing Company—Ginghams—120 hands, pay roll $3,000, water power, short time.

White, Corbin & Company—Envelopes—60 hands, pay roll $2,000, water power only; machinery light, and able to run more hours than the woolen mills.

New England Company — fancy cassimeres — 125 hands, pay roll $4,000; water power only.

Florence Mill—beavers, tricots, etc.—230 hands, pay roll $7,500, running full time, using a steam engine sufficient for all their machinery.

Springville Company—black satinets—50 hands, pay roll $1,800, water power only.

Hockanum Company—fancy cassimeres—125 hands, pay roll $3,000. This Company is now introducing steam power, having an 80 horse engine which will run the entire mill. They expect to be ready to run full time after next Monday.

Snipsic Mill—50 hands, pay roll $1,000, have an engine of 25 horse power which, with what water they get, carries all their machinery full time.

Windermere Woolen Company—130 hands, pay roll $3,800, water power only. The Windermere Mill is not included in our historical sketch because it is in the Town of Ellington. In the time of the Civil War it prospered in the little village. The building still stands—just a memory of the past.

## ROCKVILLE'S MANUFACTURING ACHIEVEMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

The New England Company received the highest prize at the World's Exposition at Vienna in 1876—The Medal of Merit—the highest medal awarded for fine, fancy cassimeres. The Cincinnati Exposition of 1885 reported by the Chicago Republican states:

> "Another of the curiosities of the Exposition is a display of several bales of raw silk, just as prepared for manufacturing purposes. The raw silk shown is of China growth, the first being Tsatlee, and the two poorer grades being Canton. Belding Brothers and Company has the largest exhibition of silk goods that is shown, and the desk at which they display their goods has been the center of a crowd of ladies during the whole day. Nothing is shown in this class which equals their exhibition."

At the Exposition at New Orleans in 1885 a list of awards included—Belding Brothers and Co., Medal of First Class for General Display of Manufactured Silk; Medal of First Class for Shoe Manufacturer's Silk; Medal of First Class for Knitting Silk; Medal of First Class for Machine Twist.

The Springville Manufacturing Company in March 4, 1889, made the Inauguration Cloth for President Benjamin Harrison and Vice-President Levi P. Morton. A sample of the cloth may be seen in the Rockville Public Library.

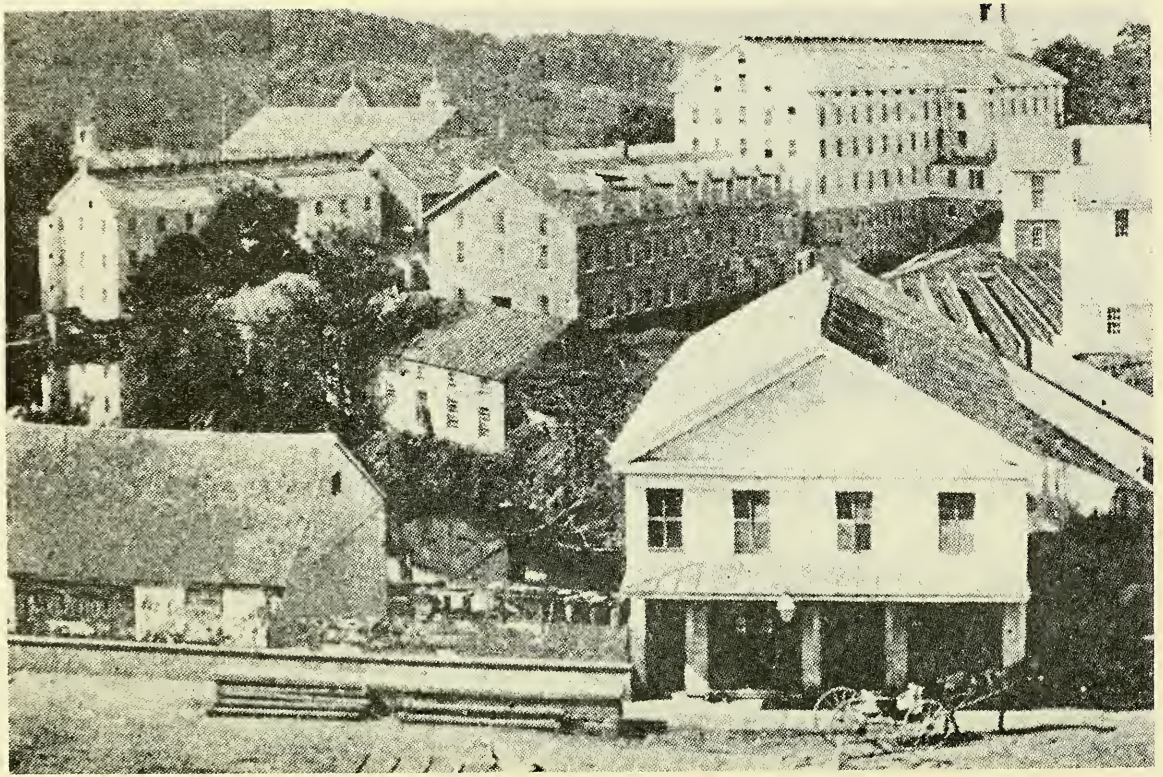
The Rock Manufacturing Company made the cloth worn by President Harrison and Vice-President Levi P. Morton at the Centennial Celebration of the Inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States in New York City, April 30, 1889. The cloth "Clay Twill" was made from a very fine grade of worsted yarn. There were six thousand, seven hundred ends, and one hundred and twelve picks of filling to the inch, the dye being alizarin.

The official announcement of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1895 states:

> "The Hockanum Company—and, of course, the Springville and New England in connection with it—manufactures fancy worsteds and woolens that deserve the highest praise for excellence of design and fabrication, and the best of all the cloth exhibited by Americans at the world's greatest fair. The patterns leave nothing to be desired in design and quality of fabric, and stand on an equality with the very best English fabrics."

The suit worn by President McKinley at his inauguration in 1897 was made of cloth from the Hockanum Mills Company, and George Sykes, president of the company, received from President McKinley's tailor, Henry Koebel, Cleveland, Ohio, this note of praise: "I consider the goods as fine in make and finish and as perfect as any English goods which have in the many years of my career come under my observation." It took four months to secure yarn of desired fineness and quality.

In 1905 the cloth for the inaugural suits worn by President Theodore Roosevelt and Vice-President Fairbanks was made by the Springville Manufacturing Company, plain black in color, and of a special design of the finest possible quality.



An Old View of Market Street Showing Union Hall, First Public Hall Opened in Rockville

# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

## THE UNION HALL OF JABEZ SEARS

Previous to the erection of Union Hall on Market Street, in the year 1849, there was no public hall of a considerable size in the village. A diminutive hall in the Snipsic Block, which the old First Congregational Church used as a conference room, was not large enough for social purposes. Young people wanted amusement, and there was a clamor for a dance hall.

Jabez Sears, a conscientious businessman, more liberal than many of his associates in village affairs, saw the need, and decided to build Union Hall. It was built of light wood, and stood on stilts, with a meat market on the first floor for revenue, and a large room for sociables and dances on the second floor. When the proposition was made known there was great excitement. The Puritan fathers claimed the movement was inspired by the evil one.

Nevertheless, the poisonous shafts of dissent were of no avail against the determination of Jabez Sears. The work upon the building progressed, and on the Fourth of July, 1849, the first dance was held in the crowded hall.

After the young people had tasted of the sweets of Terpsichore they demanded a greater knowledge of the art, and engaged Prompter Sibley and Musician Shaw, who soon caused their awkwardness on the wax floor to change to grace.

"Union Hall" was upon the sign which hung at the entrance to the building. Opposition lost its enthusiasm very soon, and the hall in 1850 was rented to the Baptist Society, and in 1855 St. Bernard's parishioners held services there, investing it with a special aura. Tolland County *Gleaner* and Tolland County *Leader* were both printed in this building for a short time.

Happily, the old Sears Hall began a boom in building operations in Rockville which continued for about forty years. The meat market on the first floor was sold to Asaph McKinney & Company, with a full line of market produce and groceries.

A young man attended religious services at the Hall one Sunday morning, and on leaving remarked: "Good meeting, but the market below smells bad!"

Three cellars were constructed under the building. The lower cellar was used for storage; the second in the manufacture of lard, sausages, etc., and the upper one by the bottling establishment of Bacon Brothers. The village lock-up was on this floor, and first consisted of three small cells. Later a more commodious place of detention was constructed in front of this cellar with an entrance south of the building itself.

For several years it was used for dancing and parties. In the Fall of 1876 A. W. Phillips leased the rooms and fitted and stocked them for a printing office. As an inducement to do this, he was awarded the contract for printing the Tolland County Gleaner—a little five-column four page paper. An enlargement was made, and the Gleaner was sold to Mr. Phillips who afterward sold it with office and material to a Mr. Washburn of New York. But after a brief stay he returned to New York, and the Gleaner ceased publication. The building in 1887 was dedicated as a Salvation Army Temple, and now stands unoccupied on Brooklyn Street.

CYRUS WHITE'S OPERA HOUSE

## CYRUS WHITE'S OPERA HOUSE

The second playhouse in Rockville, situated at the corner of Market and Brooklyn Streets, directly opposite the railroad depot, was opened on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 12 and 13, 1869, with two grand dedicatory concerts of instrumental and vocal music by Krebb's celebrated concert troupe of Boston. Originally the building was the Second Meeting House of Ellington in 1806. Cyrus White bought it, took it down, and later moved it to Market and Brooklyn Streets in Rockville.

The building was large and commodious, illuminated with gas jets in front, and a large and brilliant reflector near the roof. The entrance to the building was up two flights of wide stairs, and the interior of the hall presented quite an attractive appearance, the walls and ceiling being handsomely frescoed, and lighted with some twenty chandeliers and gas burners. The stage was 22 x 30 and had four private boxes, with good scenery, footlights, and all the necessary paraphernalia for giving theatrical entertainments. The hall and gallery were capable of seating 770 persons, and provision was made for 200 extra chairs. The size of the hall was 90 x 48 feet. The gallery had 168 seats.

A large party came from Hartford on the 6:20 p.m. special train to attend the grand opening concert. Governor Jewell and the Rev. Mr. Gage, together with other well-known citizens, were among the visitors. Governor Jewell occupied one of the private boxes.

It is interesting now to observe the regulations strictly enforced —no smoking or tobacco chewing or unnecessary spitting upon the floor. No standing or treading upon the seats. No stamping except in expressing applause. No whistling or pointing or any unseemingly, indecorous or improper conduct were permitted upon the floor of the hall.

The concert was a fine affair, a good programme of both vocal and instrumental music having been selected, and a talented corps of artists from Boston performed their various parts to the great satisfaction of all present. Mrs. Josie Logan, a contralto singer with a very sweet voice and exuberant personality, favored the audience with several beautiful ballads, and received various encores. Professor Wallach, of Boston, performed several fine airs on three different harmonicas, imitating a brass band, a violin and

other musical instruments. The humorous songs of Mr. H. C. Barnabee were finely rendered, and the performances of Carl and Gustav Krebb upon the piano, flute, and clarinet were all excellent.

At the close of the concert, Governor Jewell was introduced by Mr. Cyrus White, and made a few felicitous remarks. He congratulated the proprietor upon his enterprise in building such a magnificent hall—one of the finest in the State, and not to be excelled by some of our larger cities. It is a want that the citizens of Rockville must appreciate, and he trusted the enterprising proprietor would be amply remunerated.

The decorations, carpets, etc., were furnished from the well-known house of Talcott & Post, of this city, and the frescoing was done by Boston artists.

"An old school boy," looking back forty-five years, described the shows he enjoyed in the Opera House. He wrote of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"—the really genuine article, two or three Evas, certain blood hounds and jackasses. "I actually got excused from school one afternoon to attend the matinee," he wrote.

He commented on the great usefulness of the Opera House. There were Good Samaritan meetings Sunday afternoons, with addresses by famous temperance people; lecture courses of a high character—Wendell Phillips was on one of the programs. Political rallies were stirring. Senator Eaton could march up and down that stage, stopping at either end to wave his fists in the air while his knees bent under him, and from his thin lips poured forth sarcasm, invective or eulogy, as the circumstances demanded.

School children gave their concerts there, seated on benches built upon the stage. The first graduation exercises of the Rockville High School were held there, most awesomely. The Opera House was the entertainment center, the intellectual center of a mighty wide-awake community.

On January 17, 1924, there was a $3,500 blaze in the Opera House, which gutted the rear of the building. Thursday's issue of the Journal was being printed at the time the fire was discovered, at 4 o'clock, and the entire issue was so soaked with water that another issue had to be printed Friday morning. The entire building was completely destroyed by fire March 20, 1941.

## THE HENRY OPERA HOUSE

The Henry Hall, later known as The Henry Opera House, on the third floor of the substantial Henry Building in the center of the city, was opened to the public on Friday evening, March 5, 1880. The theater was fitted up in the best style and at great expense. The frescoing was done by Whittaker Brothers of Massachusetts. The design upon the ceiling had for the center of each of the four sides full length female figures representing the goddesses of Liberty, Justice, Tragedy, and Music. The drop curtain, a scene from Venice, was painted by the famous Charles Brandt, of New York. The hall was capable of holding about 1,000 people. Ushers in formal dress greeted and seated the audience. For several years Tom Adams, Frank Adams, Robert McChristie and Walter E. Payne distinguished themselves in this capacity. In those days theatres were lighted by gas. The footlights, the stage, and all the lights about the house were of gas.

One of the best theatrical and musical entertainments in the country was presented on the opening night—the splendid drama "The Unknown," with John A. Stevens supported by twelve star actors, after playing a long engagement at Haverly's Theater in

HENRY BUILDING

New York. Gilmore's celebrated orchestra furnished music. The admission was 75 cents, reserved seats $1.00 and $1.25, boxes $10.00. The receipts were $500. The actors took 60%; Music cost $150.

For years the theatre entertained the populace with many a fine minstrel show and play. It housed many famed actors and actresses of the day. The seats are now removed, most of the props gone and the play-house is tenanted by spiders instead of audiences, but the ancient Opera House still remains in the Henry Building. Old billings still cling to the walls, back stage, and the dressing rooms contain the pencil-scribbled notations of those who played the house years ago.

A generation after the Henry Opera House had gone out of business, a Rockville Journal representative visited the Old Play House, and his vivid description of it gives us a picture of its departed glory. This newsman walked the floors covered with dust which had accumulated during the years. He glanced up at the roof. The former beautiful ceiling, with its many fine pictures, its attractive painting, its splendid workmanship was in ruins.

To the left and right of the stage he observed the two special boxes, where folks of a generation ago, as they sat in the gallery or the main floor, some day hoped to sit. The gallery or balcony was beautiful, shaped like a horseshoe.

The Journal representative walked hurriedly across the stage. It also was covered with dust. Then looking ahead, he saw what he had often heard about—the lithographs of a few of the hundreds of artists who had played on the Henry stage. After reading the names, looking at the pictures, reading comments on the lithographs, and then looking over the stage once more, it seemed to him a pity that the voices which once spoke and sang in Henry Hall could not be brought back for a single night.

The first lithograph was that of Dennian Thompson who appeared at the Henry House as "Joshua Whitcomb." He had appeared 250 times in Chicago, 103 times in San Francisco, 13 consecutive weeks in New York City, 4 consecutive weeks in Boston, and he appeared June 8, 1881, at Henry Hall. An excellent likeness of Joshua himself was pasted on the wall—a pleasant memory of one of America's greatest artists.

The Henry Opera House was finally condemned because of an unsafe balcony.

## A FEW PRICES IN THE SIXTIES

That indefatigable reporter, Stephen Von Euw, in the Rockville Journal of July 9, 1949, entertained readers with quite a list of prices of various commodities just before the Civil War.

Here are some of them:

Pair ladies' slippers 50¢
One pair kid gloves $1.00
One pair lisle gloves 25¢
Neckties 90¢
Two shawls $4.50
A Coat $14.00
A Cap $1.25
One pair pants and vests $9.00
One moleskin hat $4.00
One parasol $2.25
Pair of shoes $1.25
One razor strap and brush 67¢

One lb. tea 44¢
2 lbs. coffee 40¢
2 lbs. raisins 28¢
A dozen lemons 18¢
3 lbs. butter 60¢
Barrel flour $8.25
Bushel potatoes 62¢
Half-gallon molasses 72¢
Cake of Yankee soap 12¢
Plug tobacco 3¢
1 lb. starch 11¢
5 lbs. turkey $1.75

1000 lbs. coal $5.75
Two cords of wood $12.50
8 cords of wood $21.87

Boarding three months $42,25
Board, woman and child
15 weeks $30.00
Six days' labor, self and boy $27.00
20¼ days, horse and cart $60.75
Labor moving tree $3.00
Labor 1 day two masons $6.00
Keeping traveler over night $1.00

Funerals:
Fenelon McCollum
Coffin and hearse $14.00
Two coffins and two hearses $28.00
Peter Wendheiser
Coffin and shroud $12.00
Cash to two strangers $1.00
Cash to three tramps at Keeney's $1.50

In those days it was considered proper for officials doing official work to have the town pay for their meals.

Dinners for Board of Relief $1.50
18 meals for Civil Authority $18.00

According to Benjamin Ashley of Vernon in the early part of the nineteenth century a flip and a sling were indulged in by very respectable people. A flip was a sweetened drink consisting of ale, beer, cider, sometimes containing an egg or two, heated, stirred with a hot iron to give it a burnt taste. A sling was a gin with water, sweetened.

One gill of brandy—12 cents
Brandy, half-gill with rye and cheese—31 cents
Milk per quart—5 cents
Cider, a barrel—$6.00

Sirloin steak per lb.—23 cents
Rib roast per lb.—20 cents
Lamb and mutton per lb.—25 cents
Pork, per lb.—20 cents

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## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT ROCKVILLE

The influence of the Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg for many years lingered over the sanctuary and transformed the humble meeting house at Vernon into a shrine. Quite a number of people living in Rockville at that time made their pilgrimage to Vernon to worship every Sabbath. Allyn Stanley Kellogg, recalling his childhood days, tells of the large number of men who used to pass his father's house on foot every Sunday on their way to Meeting House at the Center. "One man," he writes, "made the journey on such a lowly beast as some of the ancient prophets rode." "But," he adds with emphasis, "the most noticeable sight of the day was the large team wagon of the Rock Company, with four horses driven by John Chapman, Jr., fully loaded with girls from the Rock factory."

A preliminary step toward the establishment of the first Congregational Church in Rockville was in the form of a petition drafted and signed by fourteen Christian people on November 1, 1836: "Whereas the population in that part of Vernon lying on the Hockanum river between the site now occupied by the Stone Mill

Company and the site of the Saxony Company already amounts to more than 400, and the prospect of an immediate increase from occupying the mill privileges on the stream now unoccupied is such, and the distance to the Center of the Town being such that but few of the population are able to go there statedly on the Sabbath, therefore,

> Resolved, That an Ecclesiastical Society ought to be immediately organized in this part of the Town."

The desire for a place of worship in the village was first expressed to the Church at Vernon at a meeting held on the 11th of November, 1836, when, according to the records, "a petition was made by the several members residing in the north part of the Town, for permission to meet and enjoy the ordinances of the Gospel by themselves, during the ensuing season." A committee consisting of the pastor, and Deacon Flavel Talcott, Messrs. Thomas Wright Kellogg, John Chapman and George Kellogg, was appointed to consider this petition, and report at a future meeting. At a meeting held one week later, the petition was granted.

No time was lost, and the sponsors of the movement at a meeting held on November 30, 1836, pledged their word:

> "We, the subscribers, agree to pay on demand to either George Kellogg, Alonzo Bailey or Andrew W. Tracy, for the purpose of supporting a minister of the Congregationalist order, to preach until the first of May, 1837, in the conference room recently built by the Rock Manufacturing Company the sums respectively annexed to our names. About 65 persons subscribed the sum approximately $175."

At once, Rev. Bennett Tyler, D.D., of East Windsor, began the work of preaching to the small group, in December, 1836, and the following year Rev. Diodate Brockway, a Yale College and Divinity graduate, and minister of Ellington Church for fifty years 1799-1849 became stated supply. A season of refreshing from the Lord followed; many people were soundly converted. A Sabbath school of one hundred children was organized under the leadership of Andrew W. Tracy, "a man always bubbling over with fun and good nature without a sour or melancholy spot in him." Articles of faith and a covenant were adopted, the ministers of Ellington, Coventry, Vernon and Tolland were invited, and meet-

ing in council on the 26th of October, 1837, duly organized a Church to be known as the Second Congregational Church in Vernon or the First Congregational Church in Rockville with the following members:

Daniel Chapman, John Cushman, Nehemiah Daniels, Lorinda Daniels, Halsey Fuller, Lydia Fuller, Eli Hammond, Sarah Hammond, Persis Hammond, Allen Hammond, Orra P. Hammond, Lucius Hinkley, Laura W. Hinkley, Seth W. Johnson, George Kellogg, Eliza N. Kellogg, Clarissa McLean, Phineas Talcott, Philomela Talcott, Miner Preston, Louisa J. Porter, Andrew W. Tracy, Emeline T. Tracy, Horace Vinton, Rufus West, Lois G. West, Nathaniel C. Warren, Simon C. Chapman, Jerusha Chapman, Austin McKinney, Amanda McKinney, Taey Stebbins, Edward Hall, Charles H. Merrick, Mary Ann Merrick, Rufus F. Fay, Margaret M. Fay, Horace Thompson, Roena T. Thompson.

On March 14, 1837, a meeting was held to decide "whether the Society will do anything about building a Meeting House or not." It was decided by ten yeas and two nays. George Kellogg, Alonzo Bailey, and Phineas Talcott were appointed a committee to do five things: to solicit subscriptions—a delightful task; to secure a site; to affix a stake; to procure a plan, and to make an estimate of the probable expense of the Meeting House.

With commendable eagerness the committee went forth, and two days later, March 16, 1837, reported that "the spot of ground on the Hill immediately east of the Lecture Room is the only proper one on which the Meeting House should be erected, therefore they have affixed there a stake."

But enthusiasm waned, hope began to flicker and fail, and the building project was delayed. Then at a meeting on December 26, 1837, flying their little flag of cheerful courage, the committee on ways and means introduced a financial plan, which was adopted, whereby the necessary $4,500 would be raised before the first of April, 1838, each subscriber to pay his amount in five equal installments, the first on April 1, 1838, and the rest at intervals of three months. Thus at last, after many discouragements, the Meeting House of the First Congregational Church in Rockville was built by Wm. T. Cogswell on the site of our present Memorial Town Hall at a cost of $4,500, raised by voluntary subscriptions.

The First Congregational Church of Rockville, following the example of our Lord, called twelve leaders, but without a Judas. Just as one star differeth from another star in glory, so one min-

ister differeth from another minister in temperament, gifts, and personality. And among the ministers of the First Church there were diversities of gifts. There had been two years of planting by ministers Tyler and Brockway when Rev. Ansel Nash began his ministry here in 1839, at a salary of $600 per annum. A graduate of Williams College and Andover Seminary—a good preparation for the ministry—he was installed on the 30th of January, 1839, but as early as July, 1841, the pastoral relationship was dissolved. Conscious of failure, Mr. Nash at the end of the first year proposed to relinquish one hundred dollars of his stipulated salary for the current year, and the church actually accepted his offer, but at the end of the second year, to save further embarrassment, a committee appointed to smooth out the path of his ambition took him up into a high mountain, showed him the glory of the larger world, and pointed to a bountiful harvest then waiting for laborers in the fields. And as the shepherd reads the sky, so Mr. Nash interpreted the sign, and left.

On the 21st September, 1842, the church decided "to hire the Rev. Augustus Pomeroy to supply the desk to the first of April next at $600 a year." He, too, was a graduate of Williams and Andover, and he, too, stayed only two years.

Then came to the church in the year 1845 the man for the hour—Rev. Horace Winslow—a man best described by Uncle George M. Brown, a Rockville institution of four-score years ago, as "a hustler and a right smart Gospel preacher." Horace Winslow was installed in October, and in the following spring a revival swept the village, sinners forsook the seat of the scornful, and a large number united with the church. Things began to happen. The Meeting House was enlarged; side seats in the galleries were added at a cost of $1500; an excavation was made under the church for the installation of a furnace; the outside of the Lecture Room was painted; the unsightly horse-sheds were removed; the first pipe organ in a Rockville church was purchased at a bargain price from John W. Thayer. John Newton Stickney, a stockholder and director of the Florence and Carlisle Mills, which both failed, was for twelve years the faithful organist, serving without pay.

Mr. Winslow was a community man. He was interested also in the people outside the church. He contributed to the beauty of the church surroundings. Before he had really unpacked his private library of books, he proposed to the members that the approach to the church be made more attractive. As a result of his efforts,

trees were planted, the land was graded, two fountains were erected, and the general appearance of the village was materially improved.

He made for himself a good reputation by organizing a Cold Water Army among the children. Mrs. Mary Brigham, now of sacred memory, often recalled with fondness that institution. Occasionally on public holidays the Army would parade the streets headed by the old fifers and drummers, singing the temperance songs they had learned under the leadership of Rev. Horace Winslow. Mrs. Brigham, by the way, lived to the remarkable age of 101.

Popular though he was, bringing the church membership to 246, Rev. Horace Winslow did not please all his parishioners. He owned the best horses in Rockville. Others had fine horses, but somebody spoke for everybody when he remarked: "Horace never took anybody's dust." Rev. Henry Ward Beecher would have commended his good sense. "If you want to size up a community," said the great preacher, "look at the horses. If they are slow or ill-fed, get out of that community as fast as you can." Such was his counsel to all candidates for country churches. But some Congregationalists in Rockville did not exactly like the sight of their minister driving like Jehu of Old Testament fame and they rebuked him.

George Brown reminiscently reminds us: "Anyone taking Sunday papers in Rockville in 1845 would have been called crazy. It was 'Read and study the good old Family Bible,' and it was 'Go to church every Sunday.' If the factory employee did not go to church Sunday he or she would get a lecture from the agent Monday morning. The men who shaped the affairs of the town and conducted the mills were very strict on the question of Sabbath observance. There were morning, afternoon and evening services and Sabbath School and Thursday evening prayer meeting."

Dark days followed for the church. True, it did seem quite appropriate that the next minister's name should be Ray—Rev. John W. Ray. My good friend, Phineas Talcott, was the authority for the statement that one night in Meeting the lights went out while Rev. John Ray was preaching, and the minister, rising splendidly to the occasion, announced: "There is still a Ray left." But even that ray was soon extinguished. A Dartmouth graduate, teacher in Academy and Normal School, he had difficulty in leading the congregation into the higher life of faith. There was gen-

eral confusion. The church was compelled to secure a loan of $2500, the bass viol of the society was lost, many members withdrew, and were very emphatic about their withdrawal.

Into this deplorable condition came Rev. Smith Bartlett Goodenow, a man from Maine and a graduate of Bowdoin College. But he resigned after only one year because of "pecuniary embarrassment." His salary was $1000 (when he received it), and the annual report showed a declining church with a membership of only 118.

As welcome as sunshine after rain was the ministry of Rev. Avery Skinner Walker, who was installed in 1861, and actually stayed three years. Conditions began to improve, even organist Fisk was paid $50 for the year and Chorister Pinney the same amount, though the Society went on record at that time: "The Society deem it inexpedient to pay any money for similar services rendered hereafter." These brief pastorates continued, and under such conditions the church could not prosper. The real need of the church was longer pastorates.

In the year 1866 Rev. Henry Sylvester Kelsey, graduate of Amherst College and Union Seminary, then teacher of mathematics and later a professor of mathematics, natural philosophy and astronomy in Wisconsin, came to the First Church. He had no difficulty in finding trouble. Early in his ministry of two years, he invested money in a local enterprise, and lost it. He denounced some as belonging to a den of thieves, and that statement created more dissension.

Like manna sent from heaven was the coming to Rockville of Rev. Egbert Byron Bingham in 1871. His ministry of seven years gave a new lease of life to the church. Born in Scotland, Connecticut, he was blessed with rare intellectual powers. He was unassuming in his bearing and strong in character. His mind was as clear as crystal and as ordered as the stars. He became one of the editors of the Yale Literary Magazine, a member of the Yale Glee Club, and because of his superior scholarship was accepted into the select circle of the Skull and Bones Society. In elocution he outranked his entire class and at graduation in a class of 160 was accorded a "First Oration," an honor then bestowed only upon the four class members of the highest general standing.

Serious throat trouble was the beginning of the broken health which cast a deep shadow over his later life. In addition to his own personal affliction, he was called upon to pass through the

fiery furnace of domestic tribulation while in Rockville, through the loss of his wife, who died at the age of 28 years, leaving an infant daughter. A very tender resolution of sympathy is spread upon the records of the First Church in the year of 1874. Mr. Bingham made many friends in the community, and created a new interest in the church. During his ministry extensive repairs were made on the building, and the kind offer of the Methodist Church of their facilities was accepted with gratitude.

The eleventh minister was Rev. J. W. Backus, 1879-1883. A quiet, conscientious worker and pastor, he won his way into the hearts of his people. Aside from his academic training, it is known that Mr. Backus had private tuition in the art of preaching, his wife being the dear professor. And those who sat under his ministrations and enjoyed his discourses claim that his best sermons were preached when his wife happened to be absent from the service. The church profited by his gracious and thoughful ministry, and on his departure after four years placed on record this testimony: "For nearly five years Mr. Backus has ministered unto us earnestly and acceptably, and our best wishes will follow him to his new field of labor in Plainville, Connecticut."

Last but not least of the ministers in the First Church was Rev. Charles H. Ricketts, who became pastor in 1884, remained until the church was merged into Union Church in 1888, and served the new organization until May, 1889. It is worthy of note that on October 30, 1887, Mr. Ricketts preached the sermon on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the First Church and twenty-five years later preached the sermon at the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the same church. That is unique.

## THE LECTURE ROOM

In 1826, Mr. George Kellogg and Mr. Ralph Talcott of the Rock Company saw the necessity of a church in Rockville. The proposition was treated by many with indignation, and Mr. Kellogg was abused for his benevolence toward the people in this part of the town, and was accused of malice toward the church in Vernon, to which he belonged.

But, notwithstanding all this, the building since known as the Snipsic Block was built in 1836 and was called the lecture room. Preaching began as soon as it was completed, and continued every Sunday until the First Church was dedicated June 29, 1839. The upper floor was used exclusively for Sunday services, the pulpit

being at the north and the choir on a raised platform at the other end. In the rear room of the first floor was established in 1836-7 the first district school of Rockville. The front room was used as a shoe shop, but for years was unoccupied. In 1843, during a shower, lightning came down the chimney and followed the stove pipe down through the floor under the stove, into the schoolroom below, tearing up the floor, shivering the timbers in the cellar and doing slight damage in many places, mostly on the first floor. About 60 persons were in the upper room holding a singing school, which broke up in confusion, but no one was injured.

It continued to be the lecture room, in which occasional religious services were held until 1848, when the Second Church was built, and was also used for a high school during week days till the brick school house was built in the same year as the Second Church.

The room was next occupied by Webb & Wells, job printers and publishers of the Tolland County Gazette, the first newspaper ever published in Rockville. The paper had a life of a few years only, and when U. S. Treasurer Gilfillan started the Republican in Doane's Block, the room was made over into a tailor's shop.

Downstairs, Drs. Friselle and Dewing had an office and drug store which was afterwards sold to Dr. Wilson. The west store was occupied by H. W. Coye as a music store and watch-repairing establishment. Coye was succeeded by Skinner and Plimpton, who bought out Wm. H. Cogswell's stock and fixtures and started a drug store.

Readers will be interested to learn that this lecture room, originally located on the site of the present Henry Building, is now the home of Mr. William Wheelock at 206 East Main Street, on the south side of the street adjacent to the Minterburn Mill office. Here the father, William Henry Wheelock, aged 84 years, has lived for nearly half a century.

The present home, a part of the property of M. T. Stevens Company acquired from the Hockanum Company, was purchased by Mr. Wm. Wheelock in 1947. Massive hand-hewn beams in the structure, pegged and sturdily joined together, disclose the age of the building.

On the north side of the same street at No. 181 there stood for many years prior to 1934 another historic structure. It was a square brick building, two stories, which originally was a tavern patronized and popularized by travelers through the town and

considered a landmark by distinguished persons who called here en route to the eastern section of the county.

The original brick tavern building was torn down in 1934 and the cellar and foundation filled in. Then the present frame building of approximately the same size and on the identical site was erected, and is now occupied by George May's plumbing and heating establishment.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROCKVILLE

It was in the enthusiastic days of Rev. Horace Winslow that the Second Congregational Church of Rockville was formed. The first church was growing rapidly, and expansion was the constant cry. The community was growing, too. The village had become a town of 2000 people. Moreover, for half a century it was fashionable to build more churches. If a group of people did not like the minister or the minister did not like the members or the members did not like one another, another church was built.

To meet the growing demands of the Congregational Parish a Second Church was organized on February 22, 1849, with 48 members—29 from the First Church and 19 from elsewhere. The house of worship, which stood on the site of the present Union Church, was a New England Meeting House of the noblest style of architecture, with Ionic portico, and a steeple 145 feet high. It was built in 1848 and dedicated in 1849. Six ministers, a noble band of men whose hearts God had touched, served the church during the forty years of its existence.

Rev. Andrew Sharpe was installed on September 26, 1849, and was dismissed on December 2, 1851. In those two years fifty persons united with the church, among them E. C. Bissell, a weaver in the Rock Mill, who later became a professor in Hartford Theological Seminary. During this period, the labors of evangelist John D. Potter had a mighty influence upon the people.

Rev. Charles Henry Bullard's ministry, 1852-1857, was profoundly strengthened by the evangelistic fervor which then prevailed, and he received into the church one hundred and four persons on confession of faith. He left Rockville to become the agent of the American Tract Society of Connecticut.

Rev. Charles Wells Clapp, 1857-1864, was highly esteemed by the community. He was a man of culture—as much at home with an erudite professor as with an unlettered teamster. At the close of his ministry here, he became a professor in a western college.

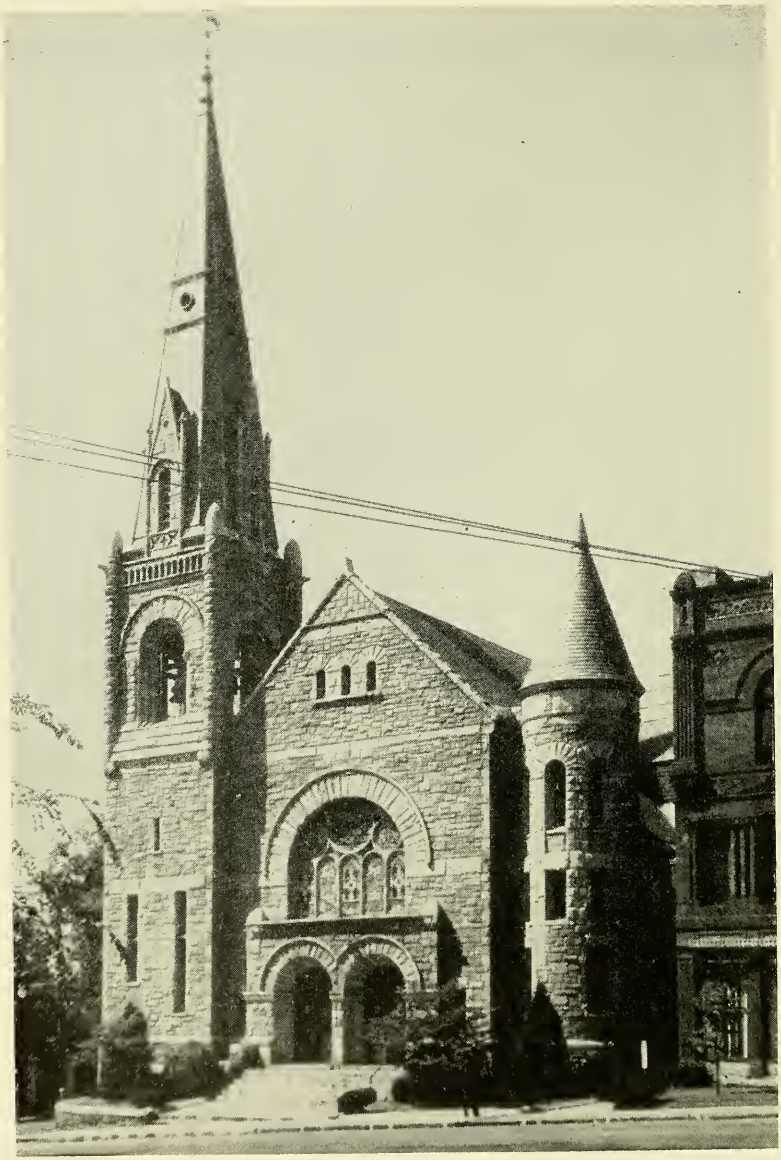
Rev. Asa S. Fiske, 1865-1871, had remarkable success. He actually received into the church 231 members. He possessed a great tact in the management of the parish affairs. His persistent efforts brought an increasing number to the Sabbath evening services. He was a good preacher, democratic, and full of humor.

Like Winslow, of the First Church, he was very fond of horses—the faster they ran the better he liked them. However, some members of the congregation did not approve of this particular activity. And the fact that the minister's wife rode horseback did not improve the situation. Still, he was admired by the parish for his untiring zeal in the work of the church.

Rev. Henry F. Hyde started his pastorate July 5, 1872, and after eight years of faithful service died here. His monument stands in Grove Hill cemetery. He won the hearts of the young people. Advanced in his ideas of an institutional church, he constructed a stage with footlights for the presentation of plays by the young people in the basement of the church. His printed book of sermons bears witness to his superior intelligence. His ministerial brethren loved him. In his sickness one of them stood at his bedside almost daily, and others in the county supplied his pulpit that his salary might be continued for the support of his family. In a sermon preached at the Methodist Church on June 20, 1880, Dr. Hutchins, of Columbus, Ohio, one of Mr. Hyde's former comrades, said of him: "He was the most brilliant scholar the Academy ever produced and probably the most brilliant one the town of East Killingly ever had."

Rev. Samuel B. Forbes, 1881-1888, was the last minister of the Second Church. He was an elderly man and very kindly disposed; tall and dignified, and blessed with a rich mellow voice. He was deeply interested in the subject of temperance—an interest that led him to seek, unsuccessfully, the Governorship of the State. He was nominated at the Prohibitory Convention in Hartford July 28, 1886. It is safe to say that his strong interest in temperance and his wife's appointment as State President of the W.C.T.U. did not permit the subject to be forgotten entirely on Sundays at the Second Congregational Church. He lived to be over 90 years of age.

The First Congregational Church was moved to the south side of the canal, and turned around to face Central Park. Finally, the building was sold under the hammer. The eloquent auctioneer, S. J. Ryan, had difficulty in disposing of it. Nobody desired to invest in a church. Crossley Fitton bought it for $100, and later sold it for $125 to George Arnold who promptly tore it down. He sold the pews for $1.00 each.



UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In the year 1888, events of far-reaching significance stirred the entire community. Big headlines in the Rockville Journal on Friday, March 16, announced "The Great Storm of 1888—Tremendous Fall of Snow—Drifts Twelve to Fifteen Feet High." The greatest snowstorm in the memory of the oldest man living commenced Sunday evening, March 11, and raged with unabated fury throughout Monday and Tuesday. Traffic was blocked, the wheels of industry were stopped, communication with the outside world was cut off. Fortunately, there was no loss of life, though there was a milk famine. Sixty-seven years of storm and sunshine have passed since that occurrence, but we still frequently hear of the blizzard of 1888.

Three weeks after that startling phenomenon, on Monday night, April 2, inhabitants of the village were suddenly roused from their slumber when watchman Griswold of the Rock Mill struck the mill bell and the cry of "Fire" rang out in the midnight stillness. It was exactly 12:25, and the Second Congregational Church, in the heart of the village, was in flames. The steeple fell just before 1 a.m., toppling over into Union Street, turning somersault and falling with the vane on the sidewalk next to the church. At 2:10, the fire chief telegraphed Hartford for assistance, but help did not arrive in Rockville until 4:30. The church, the hardware store beneath, and the skating rink of the Fitch Block adjoining the church were then in ruins.

It appears that thoughts of consolidating the First and Second Congregational Churches had been cherished for some time by the First Church, but members of the Second Church were not enthusiastic over the proposal, and voted against such a union. On March 30, 1888, the First Church sold their lot for a handsome price to the Town of Vernon to be used as a site for the Memorial Hall building. Five days later, the Second Church was destroyed by fire.

These bewildering circumstances opened the way to a wiser understanding on the part of both church groups. Some of the saints asked, "Is not the finger of God in this calamity?" Others saw in the event retribution, and brought the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah uncomfortably near. Still others there were who sought to dissipate the gloom by the cheerio technique, claiming that it

was clearly out of order to weep copiously over such a little matter —a kind Providence would take care of that.

With a good degree of unanimity, therefore, the two societies reached these conclusions:

> "Whereas on the morning of April 3, 1888, the Second Congregational Church edifice was totally destroyed by fire, and
>
> "Whereas the land upon which stands the First Congregational Church edifice and chapel has been sold and conveyed to the Town of Vernon as a site for the proposed Memorial Hall, thus rendering both ecclesiastical societies practically without houses of worship, and
>
> "Whereas the two Congregational churches believe that the time has come when these two churches should be united into one church organization
>
> "Resolved that we do hereby unite to form a religious society to be known as the Union Ecclesiastical Society of Rockville, Connecticut."

In attempting to chart the way we have come, we ought to state that just as the year of 1888 will be remembered as the year of destruction so the year of 1889 will be recognized as the year of reconstruction and progress. In that year the village became a city. At a special town meeting called to decide the issue, 1090 ballots were cast—963 yes and 127 no—and the city form of government was adopted.

Early in 1889, the First Congregational Church building was moved over the canal to the south side of Main Street, where the united churches held their services. In that fellowship of 411 were 189 members from the First Church and 222 members from the Second Church. Rev. Charles H. Ricketts shepherded the flock until May, 1889. On September 26, 1889, sixty-three years ago, Rev. James Dingwell accepted the call and became the first minister of Union Congregational Church of Rockville, Connecticut.

Several months before the arrival of the minister, the congregation had decided to build a new and commodious church for an amount not to exceed $40,000. A building committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. John G. Bailey, George Sykes, Crossley Fitton, George M. Paulk, and Dr. E. K. Leonard. Plans and

specifications submitted by Warren H. Hayes, Minneapolis, were accepted. The original plan to build a brick church with brown stone trimmings was changed, and at an extra cost of $6,000 the church was built of two shades of Monson granite. The total cost of this beautiful sanctuary, which is increasingly admired, was $72,731.90.

We were interested on reading the building committee's report to find this:

> The building committee is pleased that no accident has occurred except the sad one by which two worthy men lost their lives. We exonerate all from any blame in the matter, as all staging was constructed in the most substantial manner.

The corner stone of Union Church was laid on June 8, 1889, with appropriate exercises. Rev. Samuel B. Forbes, the retiring minister of the Second Church, gave the address.

Now here is a glimpse at Union Church in the first year of its activities. The average church attendance for the year 1889 was 410. People went to church regularly in those days. The Sunday School, with Mr. S. Tracy Noble as first superintendent, and four assistants, Frederick Gilnack, Luther H. Fuller, Abigail Martin and Hattie E. Durfee, had an average attendance which equalled the days of the year, 365; the average attendance at Christian Endeavor meetings held at five o'clock on Sunday evenings was sixty. The Thursday evening prayer meeting was an inspiring institution. All business of the church was transacted at the close of these exercises. The report for the year shows that the largest attendance at the prayer meetings was 120, the smallest 21 (stormy night), with an average attendance of sixty. After giving these figures the clerk adds this spicy comment—"This seems a small number for our membership." Mark that—an average attendance of sixty at the weekly prayer meeting a small number for their membership! In these days when we have drifted from firm anchorage how strange that report sounds!

On Sunday evening, September 14, 1890, a farewell service was held in the old Church. Deacon George Maxwell read a paper, punctuated with the warm accents of a glowing sincerity. At the close of a fine tribute to the work accomplished by people and pastors during the forty years past, he said:

> "We may thank God that He has given us so goodly an array of ministers. On the night of April 2, 1888, we bade farewell to the Second Church as it went from us in flames of fire. Here tonight in a more peaceful way, we part with this older church. As we go hence to a more beautiful house of worship, let us ask God's presence to abide within that new temple."

The dedication of this noble edifice took place on Thursday, September 18, 1890. On the previous evening, the talented friend, Mr. William C. Hammond, gave an organ recital before a large audience. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. E. A. Reed, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, from Psalm cxxii, 1, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" The church clerk made this comment on the sermon and the preacher: "Just one half-hour was occupied in its delivery, and we made no mistake in inviting him as the preacher." And I like this illuminating word about the reading of the scripture: "The scriptural reading was impressively rendered by Rev. James Dingwell." It is estimated that 1400 people attended the exercises, about one hundred chairs being added to the seating capacity, besides which many stood.

In reply to a question asked by the minister during the dedication services concerning the financial obligations incurred by the building of the new church, Dr. Dickinson, representing the building committee, stated that there would be no encumbrance upon the church. A church that cost $72,000 had no debt! The spirit of benevolence which has enriched Union Church through the years, and is still manifesting itself, poured forth its treasures sixty-three years ago, with no desire for publicity or praise, but simply a deep love for the church and humanity. Rev. James Dingwell resigned the pastorate August 29, 1895, after six years of active service. He was an able leader and an excellent preacher.

Rev. Charles E. McKinley was installed pastor of Union Church on Wednesday, September 16, 1896. By his sweetness and strength, his profound piety and wide charity, he carried forward the large work of the church with marked success. The membership when he began was 496; when he closed his ministry in 1911 it was 588.

During his ministry the Maxwell Free Reading Rooms were opened. The fund was given by George Maxwell and members of the Maxwell family. In 1898, the Men's Union was organized

to take charge of the Sunday evening meetings and to develop the social life of the church. The Sunday School was one of the largest in the State, and the Christian Endeavor Society, aided by an orchestra, attracted an average attendance of two hundred persons, young and old.

In 1904, at a largely attended prayer meeting, the matter of securing an individual communion service was introduced. Pastor McKinley discussed reasons for and against the change. Seven ballots were cast. Mrs. Harriet K. Maxwell gave the set on the occasion of her eightieth birthday, a set of eight silver offering plates and a communion set with individual cups.

After standing firmly and faithfully at the church helm for fifteen years, Rev. Charles E. McKinley resigned on June 27, 1911, and for about a year the church was without a regular pastor. Then came Rev. Percy E. Thomas, who accepted the call and began his work here on Sunday, September 8, 1912. He found the church thoroughly organized and recently renovated, a rebuilt organ, a host of workers, and not a ripple of dissension.

Under the leadership of Mr. Thomas, Union Church grew in number and influence. He was a man's man, perfectly at home in any kind of party with men. It was good to see him at the annual picnic of the Men's Union, or at the bowling alley, or on the golf course. During the nine years of his ministry in Rockville, the church became not only a religious center but a big social family. There were many banquets. The Ladies' Aid Society raised in one year the sum of $576.25. The Bible School recognized the twenty-five years of faithful service rendered by Mr. Luther Fuller as superintendent with a gift of $1,000.

Endowed with great gifts, Mr. Thomas attracted people of all creeds to church. His oratorical powers, his choice of subjects, and his dramatic ability made the Sunday evening meetings more popular than ever before. Outside the church, he rendered splendid service in the community, especially in the period of the World War. Within the church he put everybody to work, ushers, deacons, all societies, and when he resigned on May 12, 1921, the membership had reached the total of 728. The entire church and the whole community regretted his departure when he accepted the call to the Congregational Church at Lowell, Massachusetts.

On Sunday, March 19, 1922, Rev. Thomas Pace Haig began his ministry in Union Church. He soon revealed his ability as a deep thinker, a theologian, and a good sermonizer. His pleasing

personality appealed strongly to the young people. The church school under his administration made good progress, and graciously sent Superintendent Fuller to the International Sunday School Convention held in Scotland in 1924.

A Go-to-Church movement was organized, and a junior sermon became a feature of the morning service. The congregation rallied around the standard to reduce the $7,500 debt of 1922 to $900. True, his stay in Union Church was brief, but the influence of his Christian character, his love of truth, and his strict integrity abides.

Rev. George S. Brookes accepted the call in November, 1925, and served Union Church for twenty years, the longest pastorate in its history. Notable events included visits of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, of Labrador, and Miss Helen Keller; a celebration of the tenth anniversary of Dr. Brookes' pastorate, expressed in the raising of $10,426 to meet emergency financial needs of the church; dedication of the carillon bells in 1934, the gift of Miss Ellen O'Neal; the sending of three young men of the church into the ministry--Milton Liebe, Raymond Fiedler and Kenneth Brookes; the generous gift by Mrs. Florence P. Maxwell of a parsonage situated at the corner of North Park and Prospect Streets; and the building up through the years of an Endowment Fund, which was greatly encouraged by the noble Maxwell family.

On Friday, January 14, 1938, Mr. Luther H. Fuller, senior deacon and superintendent emeritus of the church school, quietly departed for the House of Many Mansions after an association of 73 years. Union Church never had a more loyal and devoted member.

Rev. Forrest Musser began his ministry here in January, 1946. With a growing population and an intense interest in church and community, Mr. Musser has built up a wonderful organization. In 1950 the membership grew beyond the 1000 mark; a parish committee of 120 active members, doing laymen's work in the church, is doing a splendid work; a Women's Guild of five circles, in which every woman in the fellowship is a member, is rendering a noble service. The pastor is deeply interested in "Alcoholics Anonymous." He is a member of the Connecticut Water Color Society and Springfield Art League, and his large mural picture of the Lord's Supper, used to illustrate his sermon topic, attracted wide attention.

Two fires in three years caused much damage to the property, one in the balcony in 1948 and the other in the kitchen in

1951, but redecorations in the church and social rooms quickly followed.

On account of a fast growing membership Union Congregational Church expanded her program in the year 1947 by calling Mrs. Michael L. Vetrano as an Associate in Religious Education. Mrs. Vetrano had a good background of experience in church work and YWCA work, receiving her training at the Hartford Seminary Foundation. Mrs. Vetrano served the church for seven years and under her leadership the Church School and Pilgrim Fellowship greatly increased in membership and effectiveness. Many improvements were made in church school equipment and the east wing of the parsonage was converted into a parish house to care for the pre-school age. In July, 1954, Mrs. Vetrano accepted a call to a similar position in the South Congregational Church of Hartford.

Miss Antoinette Bierce from the Bunker Hill Congregational Church of Waterbury, a graduate of Schauffler College, took up her work as Director of Religious Education at Union Congregational Church on October 15, 1954.

## UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEDICATION OF

THE CARILLON BELLS

Sunday Afternoon, October 21, 1934

Four o'Clock

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ..... "Onward Christian Soldiers"

REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

WORDS OF DEDICATION

ADDRESS ..... Rev. Charles E. McKinley, D.D.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN ..... "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ..... Carillon Bells, played by Mr. Melvin C. Corbett of Darien, Connecticut

INSCRIPTION ON THE BIG BELL

These Carillon Bells

were the gift of the late

MISS ELLEN O'NEAL

to Union Church

in memory of her sister

ELIZA S. FITTON

and husband

JAMES F. FITTON

Devoted Friends of the Church

Installed October, 1934

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Rockville divides itself naturally into four periods: 1—the period of prayer meetings at the homes of brethren; 2—the building of a small church on West Street; 3—the period of worship on West Main Street; 4—the erection of the present brick Church.

Before Rockville had even selected a name for itself, and thirty years before any local newspaper had appeared, and the Hartford Courant had not yet become a daily paper, a few Methodists on fire with the Kingdom came together in 1833 for seasons of prayer and fellowship at the home of Ishmael Jackson, whose home stood back of West Street, below the Hockanum Mill, and opposite the old blacksmith's shop, where boys watched oxen and horses shod in a very primitive fashion.

Rev. Ezra Withey, a veteran minister who lived at New London, tells of preaching in Rockville factories in the year 1833, and in the Fall of 1834 the first class was formed; the members of the class—Ishmael Jackson and his wife Sarah and Thaddeus Bruce and Sylvia his wife. Four persons joined hands and hearts to establish that system of religion which they preferred. In that first class meeting some were present who were not Methodists, and there is a tradition that two or three gave themselves to God that very evening. This was the first ecclesiastical society in Rockville.

Among the reminiscences of Rev. Ezra Withey is this interesting note:

> "I preached in Rockville factories on the text, 'What must I do to be saved?' Acts 16:30. I had hard work to get hay for my horse, and started for Brother Phineas Grover's Square Pond, early in the morning. There I had a plenty for my horse and food for myself, and rested all day and over night. The Methodist preachers in those days were none too well cared for. Mr. Pierce says that his colleague, Mr. Cushing, who preached in the Tolland part of the circuit, had to resort to teaching school to keep his wife and himself from going hungry."

The itinerant wheels take strange turns. Preachers appointed in 1834 to the Tolland and Stafford Circuit, which included Ellington and Vernon, were Stephen Cushing, Ezra Withey, and

Lozien Pierce. Harry Torbush, a local preacher and a dentist, was sent to East Windsor Circuit in 1836, with Windsor Ward, Edmund A. Standish and Elam Chaplin as colleagues. Rockville was included in the territory visited by these itinerants. Torbush writes of a revival at Dobson's Mills in the winter of 1836, and pays great tribute to "Father" Thaddeus C. Bruce, the keeper of the turnpike toll-gate, who was always seen in the thickest of the battle as one of his helpers. Torbush adds this tiny note—"We hold our meetings in Rockville at 5 p.m. in the summer and 6 o'clock in the winter, followed by class meetings after preaching."

In 1838, Elam Chaplin, a local preacher and a spoon maker working in Hartford and living in East Hartford, was employed to come out to Rockville and preach in the schoolhouse on Sundays. He continued thus to supply for two years. And for his labors they paid him the microscopic salary of $8.00 per month. In 1840 for the first time Vernon appears on the list of official appointments with Benjamin M. Walker and Caleb D. Rogers as preachers. They alternated in their labors. In the year 1842 a young student, Lansom B. Clark, supplied the church, and during the one year of his ministry a big tent was put up on the lot where later the Opera House was erected on Brooklyn Street. However, for several years meetings were held at the home of the Grants and in the Grant schoolhouse. The record of Rev. R. W. Allen states: "In 1843 I was appointed to the New London District as presiding elder and found a small company of devout Methodists in Rockville worshipping in a little old dingy schoolhouse." Brother A. F. Park, later a lawyer in Norwich, supplied the society in 1844-45. These prayer and fellowship meetings, conducted by the brethren in turn, were characterized by great religious earnestness and devotion.

Then came the second epoch in the history of Methodism in Rockville. In spite of all the discouragements, they erected a church building on West Street on or near the present Polish parochial school, with appropriate exercises in May, 1847. It was a small wooden frame building. The land had been given to the Methodist Society by a Congregational brother. Rev. William W. Hurd was pastor at the time of the dedication. The one-story schoolhouse had become dilapidated, was used as a soap factory and later as a common barn.

Rev. William Hurd was a very enthusiastic pastor. He had notions of his own. He introduced the violin and bass viol into

the service of music, and though some members thought such instruments were out of place in the church, the choir persisted in their use. By a kind providence a Rev. Anthony Palmer was next sent by the Conference in 1850. He was gifted with a wonderful voice, and his geniality won the hearts of all the people. There was no further trouble with the music. Rev. L. W. Blood, 1851, and Rev. W. S. Simmons, 1853, had short pastorates.

In the year 1854-5 George W. Brewster served as pastor, and his own words tell a remarkable story of courage and determination in a period of trouble.

> "Late in the autumn or early in the winter of 1854, the little church was burned on a Sunday morning. While it was burning I secured a small hall (located where the Rockville Journal later stood) and gave notice of preaching in the evening. So we lost but one preaching service by the fire."

Thus ended the second epoch.

The third epoch began with the purchase of the church on West Main Street, which had been used by the Baptist Society and was built by them. It is now the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. The following ministers served in this period: Rev. W. D. Cady, Rev. G. W. Wooding, Rev. G. Morse, Rev. G. S. Sanford, Rev. Robert Parsons, John Lovejoy, and Rev. E. Benton. The Methodists were restless and dissatisfied. They had a vision of a larger church. They worshipped there ten years until it was voted February 26, 1866, to build a church on the ground owned by the Leeds Company and later purchased by Messrs. White and Corbin.

The fourth epoch in the history of local Methodism begins with the vote in 1866 to build the present church. The dedication of this church, the most important event in the history of the fellowship, was on Tuesday, November 26, 1867, two days after the dedication of St. Bernard's Church on the Terrace. Rev. J. W. Willett was minister at the time of the dedication.

The records of the church show the sentiment of the people in leaving the old church for the new:

> "Last Sunday evening, November 24, 1867, was an occasion of more than ordinary interest to the Methodist Church of this village. At that time, they held their last service in the old church. Heartfelt thanks were present-

ed to Almighty God for blessings bestowed at that altar, and fervent prayer ascended for greater display in the new church. Several of the older members spoke of the past with mingled feelings. They had been called to part with many who were with them when they held their first service there. They were comforted, however, in knowing that they have died well or are serving God elsewhere.

"Father Bodge said he had been absent from the Sabbath service but twice in the twelve years they had worshipped there. Many of the younger people spoke of it as their spiritual birthplace, pointing to the very seat.

"The exercises were continued about three hours. Near the close, three young persons came to the altar as penitents. Sad, yet rejoicing, the people bid farewell to their old home.

"Next Sunday they will meet in the vestry of their new church. The first service is to be a public lovefeast commencing at 9 a.m. All wishing to attend should come early as the door will be closed at 9:15, to be opened again at 10:15. The regular services will commence at the usual hours."

The first service in the Methodist dedication was a Public Love Feast, commencing at 9 o'clock in the morning. Many attended the feast, and all admired the gracious, winding stairway, the elegance of the architecture of the galleries, and the spaciousness of the edifice. The last meeting in the old Methodist Church on lower Main Street was held on June 9th, and the dedication of the new church was followed by the purchase of the old by the German Lutheran Society for the sum of $6,250. An hour before the services of dedication began more than 1000 persons were present. The dedication sermon was preached by Bishop Simpson. The trustees of the Society, through their chairman, Mr. L. A. Corbin, presented the edifice to the Bishop, with due custom and ritual. The cost of the church and lot was $50,000.

The church on West Main Street was sold for $6,250. Subscriptions were received for $4,464, White and Corbin gave $6,650 making total receipts of $17,364, and leaving a debt of $32,636. This increased by interest until it amounted to $42,201. The burden was almost intolerable, and faithful workers were often discouraged. But success came to the group twenty years later.

Next to the dedication of the Church in November, 1867, the services celebrating the event of the emancipation from debt are the most memorable. A consecration meeting on Saturday evening, October 15, 1887, was followed on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock by a love-feast led by Rev. Edward Edson. The vestry was crowded. It was a real old-fashioned love feast. The presiding Elder for the Norwich District led the service. There was special music by an augmented choir. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Bentley, of Norwich who deplored all fashionable religion and prayed that the old fire of Methodism pervade all hearts. The sermon was preached by the presiding Elder from John 14:16—"And I will pray the Father, and He will send the Comforter."

The real jubilee service was reserved for the evening. The seating capacity was severely taxed. The historical address was delivered by the Rev. J. H. James, pastor of the church. At the close of the address, he exhibited the quit-claim deed of the property now held free from debt by the church; the receipt for the $16,000 of interest which had been regularly met by Messrs. White and Corbin, and which had been most generously given to the church by these gentlemen; and lastly the mortgage note which represented the now extinguished debt that had hampered the church for many years. The mortgage note was placed upon a salver and ignited and burned to ashes during the singing of the doxology. The pastor very feelingly pronounced the benediction. What a time of rejoicing that was for all!—A never-to-be forgotten event!

The kind soul of Corbin began life with a good name through baptism. He received the name of Lewis Angel Corbin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and he had a good name through generosity. Cyrus White was his partner in benevolences as well as in business. Mr. Corbin came here in 1844. He was a stone mason by trade and in religion a strong Methodist. In 1854 he saw a bright future in the envelope manufacturing business and became wealthy. He was ever happy that he lived to see the consummation of the payment of the debt on the church. With much deep feeling he said:

> "The Methodists have had a hard struggle. When I came here fifty-two years ago there was no regular Methodist preaching. There were only eight or ten Methodists in Rockville. In 1841 and 1842 they came so near being obliterated that Rockville was not mentioned in the Con-

ference minutes. The first minister we boarded and paid $100 a year. When the first small church was being built it came near being destroyed by a whirlwind before it was completed. Then it was burned. The open doors of the Congregational Church took us in. And now we are happy because the debt is swept off. The people of Rockville have done nobly. When it was found we had raised all but $1,000, the First and Second churches took up handsome collections for us."

The nineties saw great progress in the work of the church. The old dingy schoolhouse was a thing of the past, the inadequate church on West Street was forgotten in the elegant brick church edifice in which they now prospered.

On a Sunday morning in February, 1890, $1,181 was raised for a pipe organ. In that same year, the Methodist Church Gazette, a folder of four pages, appeared as an advertising scheme; a new bell was placed in the tower to boom forth messages for generations to come. This was a gift of Mrs. Julia Paulsen. A splendid contribution to the whole community was made in the establishment of Old Folks' Day. Rev. George Hubert Bates was minister at the time, and acting on the suggestion of his mother, set apart Sunday morning, November 8, 1891, as Old Folks' Day. There was nothing elaborate about the program—just a small printed sheet giving the order of service. The pastor preached. That was all. But the idea became popular in and out of the church, and for sixty years large congregations assembled for the occasion, excepting the year 1918 when an epidemic of influenza made it unwise to hold large gatherings.

At a morning service in 1899, Rev. W. J. Yates told of a recent transfer by L. A. Corbin of his interest in the church property to the trustees and of his gift of the vestry building. Also, he stated that George Doane had given the church $1,500 to pay for moving the vestry building and for the cost of fitting it up. The new roof cost $1,400. A large model of the church had been made of cardboard and the roof had been divided off into many squares. These squares were offered for sale to raise this money.

It was in 1900 during the ministry of Rev. Walter Yates that Wesleyan Hall was opened. It was originally the vestry of the First Congregational Church, and when that church was merged into Union Church, Lewis Angel Corbin bought the building,

moved it close to the church, and deeded it and the land on which it stood to the trustees of the Methodist Church.

We have been privileged to read pastors' reports and to learn something of the multitudinous difficulties through which the church has passed. Many pastors fortunately had a sense of humor. Here are three instances:

> "Have generally spent my afternoons in calling on the members of the church and congregation and have visited nearly the whole congregation once. Quite a number of members of the church are in heaven, I trust, and have been for several years. I have not yet found it in my way to call on them. A very large number of the members are in places unknown to anyone here. I shall not be able to bestow much pastoral labor on them, unless you give me a very liberal allowance for travelling expenses."

One preacher wrote, with cheerfulness:

> "There is one advantage of residing in Rockville even now, and that is—we are not plagued with blood-thirsty mosquitoes."

But another preacher was not quite so enthusiastic:

> "I have not been around the parish much during the hot weather because I cannot stand it, and I have had quite a number of sick people to visit."

Note the strict attiude of the Official Board in those days toward amusements: "A meeting of the Official Board was held at which two members were appointed to interview two Methodist young ladies who had been known to attend a dance at the Rockville Hall."

The one hundredth anniversary of the first Ecclesiastical Society was celebrated in 1933.

Ministers serving the Church from 1848 to 1954 were:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| W. W. Hurd | 1848 | C. Morse | 1860 |
| A. Palmer | 1850 | C. S. Sanford | 1861 |
| L. W. Blood | 1851 | Robert Parsons | 1863 |
| W. S. Simmons | 1853 | John Lovejoy | 1864 |
| G. W. Brewster | 1855 | E. Benton | 1867 |
| W. O. Cady | 1857 | J. W. Willett | 1870 |
| G. W. Wooding | 1859 | E. H. Hatfield | 1871 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shadrach Leader | 1872 | J. A. Bucky | 1915 |
| Henry H. Martin | 1875 | W. E. Handy | 1919 |
| G. W. Miller | 1876 | V. V. Sawyer | 1921 |
| N. G. Axtell | 1880 | L. G. Horton | 1923 |
| Richard Povey | 1884 | Frank W. Gray | 1925 |
| Oliver H. Fernald | 1884 | J. G. Sallis | 1927 |
| J. H. James | 1888 | M. E. Osborne | 1930 |
| Orange W. Scott | 1890 | C. S. Johnson | 1936 |
| George H. Bates | 1894 | J. Arthur Edwards | 1940 |
| Walter J. Yates | 1898 | Theron French | 1941 |
| Warren A. Luce | 1901 | A. F. Waring | 1944 |
| Walter P. Buck | 1906 | Fred A. Dyckman | 1947 |
| W. S. MacIntire | 1909 | Albert Jackson | 1950 |
| Robert S. Moore | 1913 | Carl Saunders | —— |

One of the late developments in the progress of the church was the erection of a large white cross in December, 1951, lighted with white neon tube around the edges. This is turned on every night at dark, to burn until about eleven P.M. This is a memorial cross, purchased with gifts from many members of the church in memory of their loved ones. A Memorial plaque in mahogany is placed within the church, listing the names of those memorialized in gold leaf.

The addition of the Cross has made it possible to designate the Rockville Methodist Church as "The Church with the Lighted Cross."

METHODIST CHURCH IN VERNON

## VERNON METHODIST CHURCH

Like most Methodist Churches, the Vernon Church had its origin in a class meeting. The first class meeting was held in the year 1852 with the following members: James Whitney, Mary Whitney, Dudley Miner, Samuel Talcott, Maria S. Dobson, Henry E. Bennett, Caleb Austin and Louisa Austin. This class was connected with Rockville Station until 1856, when it was transferred to the North Manchester charge.

Two years later students from Wesleyan University supplied the class, and the preaching services were held in the schoolhouse near Dobson's Village on the Sabbath until 1861. In 1864 the class took the name of Centerville Station, and Rev. H. S. Ramsdell was appointed preacher in charge with W. W. Bowdish, of the University, preaching half of the time on the Sabbath.

The services were so popular that the schoolhouse was too small to accommodate the congregation, and steps were taken to build a house of worship. A committee consisting of Samuel S. Talcott, J. S. Dobson, G. H. Miner and E. P. Clark was empowered to purchase the Universalist Church in Bolton, which had been a Methodist Church from 1834 to 1851. In June of the year 1864 the house was taken down and moved by farmers and others without any compensation to land purchased from Dudley F. Miner a little east of the schoolhouse. Four months later, October 13, the church was dedicated with appropriate exercises. It is recorded that the slips or pews were purchased immediately, some renting for twenty-five dollars a year.

To meet the need of a musical instrument Miss Emma Dobson solicited funds for the purchase of an organ.

About 100 children were made happy at Christmas time when they received presents from generous church members.

In 1865 Pastor Ramsdell announced: "During the past two years we have built our house of worship, doubled our membership, and have a debt on our church of only $850 which we hope to raise next year." And the very next year the pastor stated: "We have paid up our debt on our meeting house, purchased a bell, and have a good congregation, and even though the Congregationalists have built a church near us, we expect to live in the future."

In those days a Methodist preacher did not remain in a pas-

torate more than three years, so a long line of pastors appears through the years.

In 1871 Rev. Benjamin C. Phelps, who for several years had been chaplain at Wethersfield State Prison, bought a home in Vernon, and became pastor of the little church, but unfortunately had to give up his work and retire from active service. For a number of years he occupied his time as a mechanic in a little shop adjoining his home. The Honorable Charles Phelps joined the Church, as did an older brother, George Nelson Phelps. The church resorted again to pulpit supplies from the University, which did not prove satisfactory, but gave the urge for a resident pastor.

An increase of salary was assured, and Smith S. Talcott and George H. Miner bought the house adjoining the church, now owned and occupied by Mr. Ernest Richard, and this was used as a parsonage for many years. Rev. S. O. Benton was sent by the Conference. His reception is described thus: "A congregation of about forty made their way over muddy roads and through a driving rain and sleet to hear the new minister. The cordiality of that greeting will not be forgotten by the pastor. It assured him of sympathizing hearts and hands ready for cooperation. After that first Sabbath he felt perfectly at home in Vernon and entered on his work with a bounding heart."

Among the pastors who followed was Rev. Dwight A. Jordan who later became a celebrated preacher in New York City. The years brought revival meetings and then losses. Now the Sabbath School gained in attendance, and now it failed. In 1885 thirty members of the church moved away. In 1886 Smith S. Talcott, the principal supporter of the church transferred his business to Colorado, and the membership found it impossible to support a minister.

Ten years passed, and in 1895 provision was made for a pastor to occupy the house now owned by James Costello, but then owned by some of the Dobson family. Rev. D. W. Adams during a successful pastorate brought about improvements. When the church was built there was one large room and a hallway. The partition was removed in 1895 and some of the space converted into a social room. Later, a small but convenient kitchen was added.

During the pastorate of Rev. F. J. Follansbee, 1899-1903, a commodious parsonage was built next to the church. Deacon Post, of Vernon Center, a kind friend, held a mortgage on the property for a few years, until by the faithful work of the Ladies' Aid

Society and generous gifts by the men the mortgage deed was burned amid great rejoicing.

In 1918 a student from Hartford Seminary came, but shortly received orders from the Board of Missions to go to the Belgian Congo, Africa. Another student, Rev. W. E. Nelson, followed, and in less than a year, he too sailed, under the Methodist Board, for Angola, Africa. Soon another student, Rev. Frederick Dixon, came, and after finishing the conference year he married a Methodist girl from New Hampshire and sailed under the Congregational Board for Umtali, Africa.

In March of 1938 the church was the recipient of three dozen copies of the new Methodist Hymnal in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Benjamin C. Phelps, who lived in Vernon many years.

Outstanding work was done by Rev. S. M. Beale, who died March 16, 1941, at his home in Sandwich, Massachusetts, at the age of 101 years; Rev. C. C. Tibbetts, Rev. O. W. Newton, Rev. W. J. Crawford, Rev. M. E. Osborne, and Rev. M. S. Stocking, during whose pastorate twenty-five new members added strength to the church. Rev. C. H. Ginns rendered splendid service, and during the ministry of Rev. William T. Wallace, his successor, the church was built up, and the Sunday School which was discontinued in 1928 was reorganized with an enrollment of 67. In 1940 Vernon Church became associated again with the Rockville Church, and Rev. L. Theron French, Rev. Arnold F. Waring and Rev. Frederick A. Dyckman served well.

Aided by the generosity of many friends, hopes began to brighten, and in June of 1947 a grant of $1500 was made by the Conference. At that same Conference Mr. Dyckman was appointed executive secretary of Christian Education, and Rev. Albert W. Jackson appointed to the charge of Rockville and Vernon. Plans were made for a basement in the Church, and contracts were awarded, under Mr. Jackson's leadership. Another donation of $750 from the Conference was made in 1948, and $800 from the Home Missionary Society made possible the splendid work without a debt.

The building was strengthened by four steel beams, and the commodious basement finished, with a furnace room and a kitchen in the wings on either side, and as funds became available, further improvements were made in the approach to the building. Plans were made to sell the parsonage, the returns from which would materially help in the expenses of the church building.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service (President, Mrs.

Grace Smith) and the efficient treasurer of the Building Fund have rendered valuable service. There has been a substantial gain in membership during the pastorate of Rev. Albert W. Jackson.

During the past few years $30,000 has been spent on repairs and alterations. Mr. Ernest Richard has had charge of the changes. The parsonage was sold for $8,500. The fluted columns in front of the church were obtained from a Cheney residence in Manchester, and donated by Mr. Joseph Hubbard and Mr. Everett T. McKinney of Bolton.

Some new developments have taken place in the Methodist Churches of Vernon since June 1, 1954. Recognizing the challenge of their growing community, the Rockville Methodist Church voted to increase the salary sufficently to secure the full time ministry of a pastor, and invited the Rev. Carl W. Saunders, who had been serving in the dual parish of Rockville and Dobsonville for the past four years, to return in that capacity for a fifth year. This left the Dobsonville Methodist Church to be supplied otherwise. They also rose to the occasion, sensing the challenge of their growing community. The salary was increased and a local preacher, Mr. Sherwood Treadwell, of South Methodist Church, Manchester, Connecticut, was appointed to that parish, for a part time ministry while attending Boston University School of Theology. The members and friends of both Methodist parishes are rallying enthusiastically to these new developments.

BAPTIST CHURCH

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The history of the Baptist Church had its beginning in the home of Thomas King, a tanner by trade and a Baptist by faith. He had moved from Suffield, Connecticut, to Ellington in 1840, and desiring to continue in the worship of the church of his choice, invited a small group of like-minded men to meet with him to discuss the possibility of forming a Baptist Ecclesiastical Society in Ellington. The invitation was accepted, and the meeting was held on the evening of January 17, 1842, at his home.

On Tuesday morning, February 8, of that same year, the group assembled for the second time at King's home, and agreed unanimously to organize a church. No time was lost, for in the afternoon of the same day services were held, where six persons were given the right hand of fellowship and legally recognized as a church. Others soon united with them. This church stood in the park facing south, just about opposite the present Ellington church. It was taken down and removed to Rockville where it became White's Opera House. Ellington has had four churches, the first 1739-1806, located in the west end of the park opposite the Hall Memorial Library; the second 1806-1868; the third 1868-1914 located almost directly opposite the second church; and the fourth 1916—on the same site as the third church.

The small congregation met for a few months in the Center Schoolhouse for worship and then secured the Conference House of the Honorable John H. Brockway. On October 24, a committee was chosen to draft a Constitution for a meeting house to be built within a half mile of Ellington Green. There is no record to show that such a building was ever erected, though Rev. George Mixter, the first minister, built a small house in the vicinity.

The years 1843-44 brought many difficulties, and on Christmas Day, 1844, the last meeting of the Society was held. The membership and the resources were inadequate to carry forward the work. However, in 1849, twenty-eight members of Baptist Churches residing in Rockville, issued a call for the formation of a Baptist Church. Fourteen members met at the home of E. S. Hurlburt, and resolved to consider themselves an independent Baptist Church, to be known by the name of the Rockville Baptist Church. Elder D. D. Lyon acted as the first pastor. The Sunday meetings were held in Union Hall, in the Sears Building, recently

erected by Jabez Sears. A meeting on April 24, 1849, records the fact that the committee selected to hire the hall secured its use for the sum of $62 a year, including light and heat.

The first edifice of the Baptist Church was ready in the year 1850, located on West Main Street (now the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rockville) near the United States Envelope Company's factory. Elder Henry R. Knapp became pastor as of April 21, 1850, and the membership grew to 80. Soon after the completion of the church, the Frank Mill near by and a tenement house and boarding house were burned. It is said that Elder Knapp, known to many as "Father" Knapp, stood on the steps of the Church and prayed most earnestly and eloquently that the house of worship might be saved. The Church was saved.

"Father" Knapp resigned on May 1, 1852, and three years later, owing to financial burdens, the Baptist Society sold the property to the Methodist Episcopal Church for $2,500. Utterly discouraged, the members held no meetings for twenty-seven years (1855 to 1882). Then a revival of interest led nineteen members to use the West Store in White's Opera House Block as a mission room.

In May, 1883, Rev. L. S. Brown, a Baptist clergyman of Tolland, organized a movement looking toward the erection of a church edifice. This desire was strengthened by a flattering offer from the Rock Company to sell to the society the old Congregational parsonage lot, corner of Village and Union Streets, at a much smaller price than the Company paid for it, the reduction to be considered as the Company's contribution to the Church. Mr. Brown left for other fields, and was succeeded by a Rev. Walker. Ill-health compelled him to give up his work. For two years Rev. A. S. Brown, of Hartford, took charge of the work.

The present edifice, built by contractor Camp, of Hartford, has a seating capacity of 265. It was formally dedicated to the service of God on Tuesday, March 8, 1887, the exercises occupying afternoon and evening. The auditorium was filled at both services. Rev. C. A. Piddock, of Middletown, acted as moderator.

The afternoon service was opened by an organ voluntary, followed by the singing of Mozart's "Gloria." The acting pastor, Rev. A. S. Brown, gave the invocation and Rev. B. K. Savage, of Tolland, read the scripture. A quartette composed of Miss Denley and Mrs. Schofield, Messrs. Schofield and Evans sang "Protect Us Through the Coming Night." The dedicatory hymn, written for

the occasion by Mrs. M. L. Barnes, of Hartford, was read by Rev. S. B. Forbes. Rev. A. S. Brown made a statement of the finances connected with the building of the Church as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total money received | $7,925.98 |
| Bills paid | 6,476.87 |
| Cash in Treasury | $1,449.11 |
| Bills to be paid | $1,655.00 |
| Deduct sum in Treasury | 1,449.11 |
| Deficiency | $ 205.89 |

Collections made at the dedication services amounting to $51.29 in the afternoon and $50.28 in the evening, totalled $101.57, leaving the Church debt the merely nominal sum of $103.71.

The sermon was delivered by Rev. A. G. Palmer, D.D., of Stonington. He had for his subject, "Assurance Is the Foundation of Success," founded on Philippians 1:6, a well-written and fervently delivered sermon. The closing prayer by Rev. Mr. Chapman, of Andover, was followed by Rev. C. H. Ricketts reading "Coronation," sung by the congregation. A very interesting service closed with the benediction by the pastor.

The auditorium was crowded for the evening service. After the organ voluntary, Schubert's "Jubilate Deo" was sung by the choir, and Rev. J. H. James gave the scripture reading and the invocation. "How Lovely Are Thy Messengers" by the choir, prayer by Rev. Mr. Bachelder, of Stafford, and the singing of a hymn concluded the devotional service.

Rev. L. L. Potter, of Hartford, delivered the sermon based on II Corinthians; 4:16. The preacher graphically illustrated the power of mind over matter—the action of the spirit on the body is always visible. At the close of the sermon Mr. George Smith sang a solo, "Bow Down and Hear Me," and the choir rendered "O Sing Unto the Lord" from Mozart's 12th Mass. Interest was added to the occasion by remarks of local pastors: Rev. Charles Ricketts gave a pleasing talk on "Unity of Work;" Rev. Samuel B. Forbes on "Christian Perseverance," and Rev. J. H. James on "Christian Unity and Cordial Greeting." Professor Evans directed the choir and Miss Randall officiated at the organ.

The pastor thanked all who had interested themselves in the work of erecting and furnishing the church, especially Mrs. Hiran Fiske, the donor of the Smith organ, and the donors of the dining room equipment.

The exterior of the church was painted in 1940.

Dedication of the Maas Cathedral Chimes took place on February 16, 1941.

The following ministers have faithfully served a very loyal people since the dedication of the Church:

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. E. W. Potter | 1887-1894 |
| Rev. Piddock | 1894-1895 |
| Rev. A. P. Wedge | 1895-1900 |
| Rev. G. D. Gould | 1900-1912 |
| Rev. J. H. Adams | 1912-1913 |
| Rev. H. D. Pierce | 1914-1916 |
| Rev. C. W. Turner | 1916-1918 |
| Rev. R. W. Ferguson | 1918-1926 |
| Rev. Blake Smith | 1927-1929 |
| Rev. Edward L. Nield | 1930-1939 |
| Rev. Frederick W. Rapp | 1939-1941 |
| Rev. Alvin D. Johnson | 1942-1944 |
| Rev. Adolph Johnson | 1945-1950 |
| Rev. Edwin A. Brooks | 1951- |

In January, 1951, the church called the Reverend Edwin A. Brooks, who was at that time finishing work towards his B.D. degree at Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania, to be the pastor of the church. Mr. Brooks accepted the call and on February 20, 1951, took up his duties. Upon his arrival, he found that the church had begun a program of renovating the church sanctuary. The former parsonage having been sold the month before, and a drive for funds with which to finance the renovation having been conducted earlier during the winter, the contract was given to a local contractor, Mr Ernest Welti.

The sanctuary completed, the first service conducted in the rebeautified house of worship was a wedding ceremony on Saturday, May 26. On Sunday, June 24, the renovated sanctuary was dedicated to "the glory of God and the worship of man." The Reverend Kennеth M. Cooper, Director of Town and Country Churches for the Connecticut Baptist Convention, delivered the sermon, "Temple Builders," and former pastors of the church assisted in the service of dedication. Ministers of the local churches participated in the processional.

As this renovation program was the fruit of the labor of the congregation and of the former pastor, the Reverend Adolph Johnson, so was the institution of a new set of by-laws for the church which came to fruition during the interim. These new by-laws in a few major ways departed from the former church laws. Some of the changes to be noted were: One, the abolishment of the Pru-

dential Board and the elevating of those former board members to the position of deaconesses; two, the creation of a Church Council to be "the general planning body of the church," to study "the needs of the church . . . and its parish; determine the ways and means by which the policies and programs of the church shall be carried forward . . . and to correlate the programs of all the departments and groups in the church into one co-ordinated whole;" three, the acceptance by letter as an Associate Member, of "any person who professes faith in Christ and is a member of any evangelical church."

In November, 1951, the church voted to secure another parsonage, and elected the Board of Trustees plus one member-at-large as a Building Committee. The committee acting for the church decided that a new house should be built in the west end of the city. This being voted upon by the church in June, 1952, the new parsonage was constructed off Windsor Avenue on property formerly known as the Burke Farm, Mr. Benny Szestowicki being the contractor. The pastor and family moved into the house in January, 1953, and in June of the same year the church held the dedication service for the new parsonage.

Through the years The Every Mother's Club has accomplished much. It was organized in the social rooms of the church on September 23, 1921, with eleven ladies. Mrs. R. W. Ferguson was chosen chairman, and Mrs. Imogene Starkey and Mrs. Walter Edwards, nominating committee, submitted the following names—President, Mrs. Ellen Seymour; Vice-President, Mrs. Edith Busher; Secretary, Mrs. R. W. Ferguson; Treasurer, Mrs. Julia Edwards.

The club has always had a generous heart, giving willingly to needy cases. It sent out baskets of food, bought coal for the poor, worked with the Visiting Nurse Association, and donations to Newington Home for Crippled Children, Connecticut Children's Aid Society, Polio and Cancer Funds, Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Important historical events in the life of the church include three ordinations into the ministry, of Edward W. Porter, of Rochester Theological School, 1887; Frederick W. Rapp, October, 1939; and Alvin D. Johnson, May, 1942.

Evangelistic services were held in January, 1894, conducted by Rev. D. T. Wyman, Evangelist. Fifteen were baptized and joined the church.

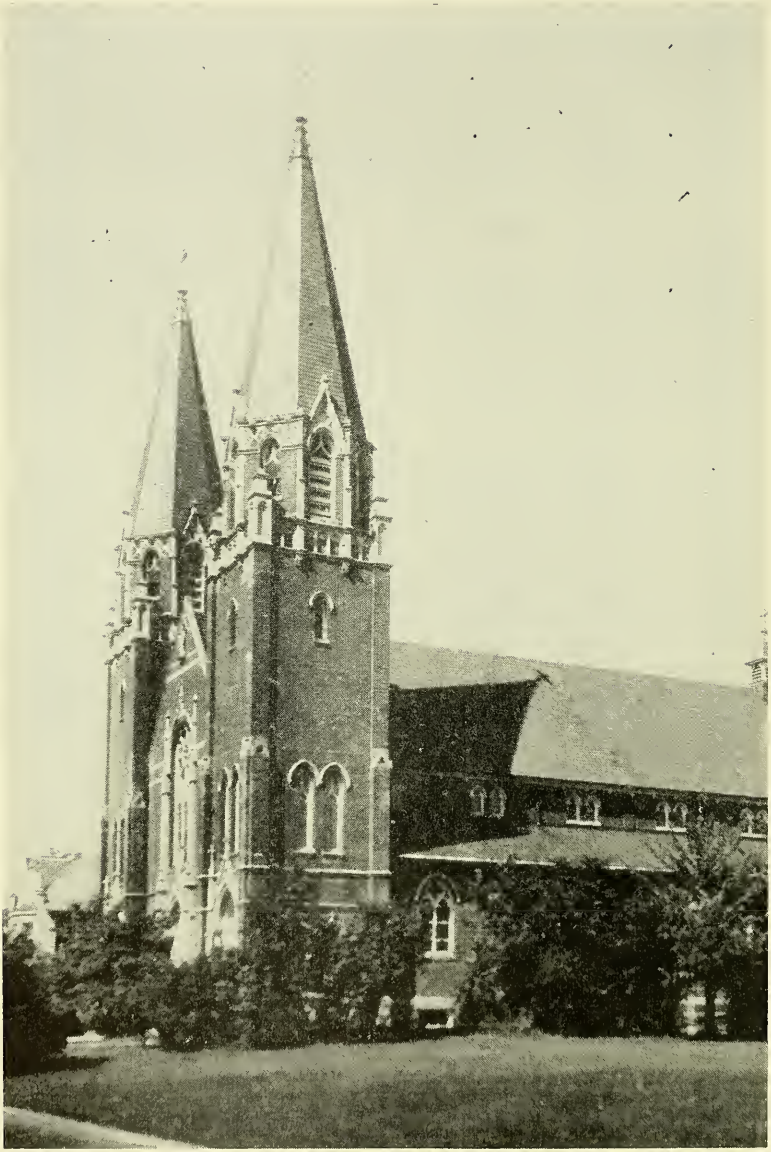
During the pastorate of Rev. A. P. Wedge (1895-1900) a parsonage was built on Orchard Street.

Rev. G. D. Gould's pastorate is the longest the Church has yet known (1900-1912). There were over 80 members and a very active Men's Bible Class.

Many church alterations were made in 1914, and the building was raised in 1915 about five feet, making possible a large vestry underneath and better facilities at a cost of $6,000. In that year Mr. Fred W. Bradley was appointed treasurer of the church and has remained in that office ever since.

Mr. Frederick Swindells gave a new Hammond electric organ in the year 1935.

The fiftieth anniversary of the church was held on Thursday evening, November 11, 1937.



ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH

## ST. BERNARD'S PARISH

The first Roman Catholic, as far as it is known, to settle in Rockville was James McAvenney who came in 1842. Six years later, in 1848, about fifteen Catholics assembled at the first Mass ever celebrated in Rockville. It was said in a house owned by the paper-mill company and occupied at that time by Christopher Carroll and his family. Rev. John Brady of Hartford was the celebrant. Among the attendants at that first Mass were Christopher Carroll, Patrick Quinn, Edward Gorman, Thomas McDonnell, Denis O'Donnell, James Conner, Philip Kiernan, Matthew Fay, Eugene Kiernan, Patrick Duffy, Martin Flood, John Moore and Michael Lawlor.

In 1849 it was decided to have regular monthly visits, when confessions would be heard and Mass offered up. Rev. James Smyth, an assistant of Father Brady, was sent to perform this duty, and officiated at monthly intervals at the Albert Lamb house, where Patrick Quinn resided. He also said Mass in the Dean house on Mountain Street, where Martin Flood and his family then lived.

In 1851 a larger place was secured by renting a room on the second floor of the "Brick Tavern," upstairs on the west side. The altar used here was in the keeping of Michael Regan in 1888. In 1853 a small hall on Market Street, over the Rockville meat market, was rented. This hall, used in later years by the St. John's Young Men's Society, was afterwards destroyed by fire. Mass was said here by Father Smyth and others until March 15, 1854. Then Rev. Peter Egan assumed charge as the first resident pastor with Manchester, Stafford Springs, Broad Brook and Mansfield as dependencies. Soon the temporary church was found insufficent and a permanent church was decided upon. The funds of the Catholics were small and there was some prejudice also in existence at that time. However, a more friendly disposition soon became manifest. One of the first to show it was Hanly Kellogg, a druggist, who conducted his business on the terrace. He offered his entire property to the Catholics on terms suitable to them and they soon made use of the opportunity presented. The store was moved back to School Street and was known afterwards as the Blake House. The site where St. Bernard's now stands was purchased in 1855 by Father Egan.

Work on the new church was begun at once and advanced

rapidly. Before it was completed Father Egan removed to Lee, Massachusetts, on November 12, 1856. He also purchased the cemetery on the Tolland road, consisting of five acres, in September, 1854.

Rev. Bernard Tully completed the erection of the church, which was dedicated soon after he came to Rockville. Bishop McFarland officiated on that occasion. In 1863 Father Tully was transferred to Thompsonville. His successor at St. Bernard's was Rev. Hugh O'Reilly. The parish of St. Bernard's grew so large that an assistant became necessary. Rev. John Rogers of St. Mary's Church, Bridgeport, was sent to help out.

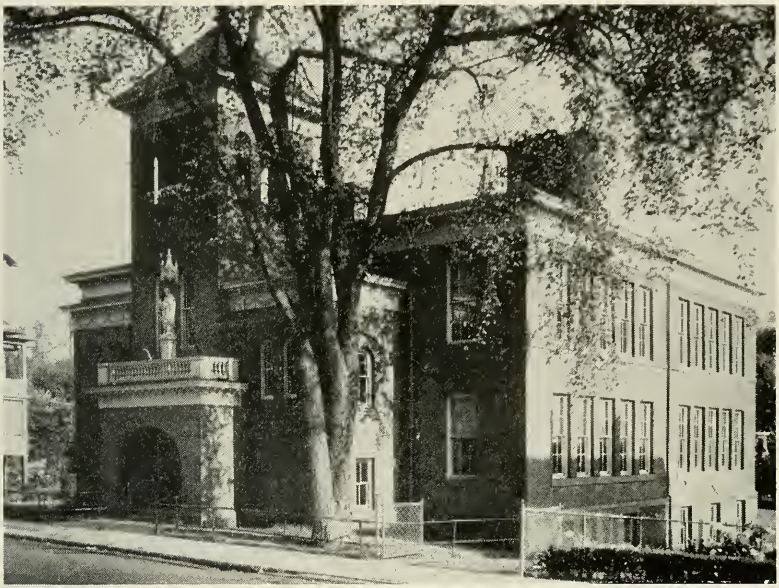
On February 26, 1868, Father O'Reilly was promoted to Valley Falls, Rhode Island, and Father Tully returned to become, for the second time, pastor of Rockville. A year later Father Tully died while riding to Ellington. The Catholics of Rockville and Manchester erected a splendid monument in memory of their dead pastor. It still stands at the southeast entrance to St. Bernard's Church, Rockville. Father Tully's assistant was Rev. William Halligan, who died in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Rev. James Quinn was appointed in September, 1869, and labored zealously until his death on December 1, 1872. The parish was well spread out at that time. For a few months before he died, Father Quinn was assisted by Rev. Thomas L. Lynch.

In November, 1872, Rev. Patrick P. Lawlor took charge and reorganized the parish. He paid off the debt and built an addition to the vestry. He remained only one year and was transferred to New London.

Rev. John J. Furlong was appointed on December 25, 1873, but was prevented by illness from assuming charge until January 24, 1874. In the meantime Rev. T. L. Lynch was in charge of the parish. Father Furlong greatly improved the cemetery. In 1875 he placed a new altar in the Church, moved the church back forty feet and raised it six feet and also put a new front with a tower on the Church. Bishop Galberry rededicated it January 20, 1878. The interior had been handsomely decorated, a new organ installed, new pews and beautiful stained glass windows as well.

In February, 1886, Father Furlong purchased the Johnson site on Park Street and fitted up the house for a convent. To this property was added the Cogswell lot adjacent. The Sisters of Mercy went to live there.



ST. BERNARD'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

The school lot on School Street was also secured by Father Furlong. The old building which Father Egan had removed to make room for the Church was on this lot. This building was remodeled for the Sisters who moved from Park Street into it on May 15, 1895.

The parochial school held its first sessions in the basement of the Church, which was fitted up for school purposes. The Sisters of Mercy arrived November 3, 1886. The school opened May 2, 1887, with five grades and over 300 children. One year before leaving Rockville for St. Mary's, Norwalk, Father Furlong began the erection of the parochial school; this was in 1894. The corner stone was laid on August 11, 1895, by Very Rev. John A. Mulcahy, Vicar General of the Diocese. On September 10, 1895, the new school was opened. Shortly afterwards there were 319 pupils. An excellent course of studies and strict discipline gave the students a good foundation on which to build success in later years.

Father Furlong was succeeded by Rev. John Cooney, who was assisted by Rev. Thomas Murray. He was appointed pastor of St. Bernard's on October 7, 1896. He remained four years, serving the people of the parish well and winning the love and reverence of the faithful.

A few years before, the first native of Rockville to be elevated to the priesthood had been ordained. He was Rev. Arthur O'Keefe, who was ordained on December 18, 1883. Many other young men followed in his footsteps, some of them still living and doing good work in the vineyard of the Lord.

On September 12, 1900, Rev. Luke Fitzsimons was promoted from New Hartford to Rockville to succeed Father Cooney who had ben sent to St. Rose's Church, Meriden.

Four years later St. Bernard's Church was completely destroyed by fire. A new church had to be built, so the pastor set to work with a will to succeed. The beautiful brick church, with its twin steeples, its limestone tracing, its exquisite stained glass windows, its marble altars, railing and statues, its comfortable pews and kneelers, its large seating capacity, is truly a house of God and a gate of Heaven for thousands of Catholic people in Rockville. This church, which stands on one of the finest sites in Connecticut, on a terrace about fifty feet above the main street, was dedicated in 1905. In 1910 Father Fitzsimons became permanent rector of the Immaculate Conception Church in Waterbury.

On July 31, 1910, Rev. Michael May took possession and worked with great zeal for ten years to promote the welfare of his parish. The present beautiful rectory was built under his supervision, and everything necessary for a well appointed and smoothly functioning Church institution was now at hand. After several years of hard and fruitful labor he was made pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Norwich, in June, 1921.

Rev. George Sinnott then came to Rockville on June 11, 1921, and the parish made steady progress under his administration. He built a convent on School Street, a well planned edifice for the Sisters of Mercy, whose self-sacrifice, skill, teaching ability and good example are reflected in the characters of thousands of their former pupils. He devoted much of his time to supervising the "city of the dead," the only Catholic cemetery in the towns of Vernon, Tolland and Ellington. He passed to his eternal reward early in 1937.

He was succeeded by Rev. Edward J. Quinn who did remarkable work in improving the church property in the short time given him for this task. He improved the interior of the Church and rectory, showing excellent taste in redecoration and in beautifying the sanctuary in particular. His landscaping of the Church grounds has added greatly to the beauty of the Church property. He hard-

surfaced the school yard and the terrace road in front of the Church and Rectory. He likewise improved the appearance of the cemetery in the same manner, hardening the roads and setting out scores of evergreen trees, some of which were destroyed by the hurricane of 1938. In the summer of 1940 he was taken from his labors by the Great Master.

Shortly afterwards Rev. James Q. Dolan was placed in charge of the parish and was well equipped for the work. He installed a very modern heating plant in the Church, thus insuring comfort even in the coldest weather. He also turned his attention to the school and gave it the most up to date equipment available, such as drinking fountains and fluorescent lighting of all classrooms and corridors. In addition to that he was an excellent preacher, having served for several years on the Diocesan Mission Band.

Father Dolan was promoted to St. Joseph's Church, Meriden, where he is continuing his good work for the salvation of souls.

On June 17, 1944, Rev. Patrick J. Mahoney was placed in charge of St. Bernard's Parish and immediately set to work. He renewed the front wall of the Church where the elements had done considerable damage, reinforced the interior of the twin steeples, installed sponge rubber kneelers, repaired all walks, pointed and weatherstripped buildings, reinforced all buildings, and has begun to improve the interior of the Church. With the cooperation of his parishioners he is in charge of an excellent Church property, all free from debt, of which any community might well be proud, each building in excellent condition. The spiritual work, of course, has not been neglected, for the Catholics of Rockville are loyal to their Church and its teaching. Thus over a period of many years the Catholic parish of St. Bernard's had grown steadily and today it flourishes as it points its steeples to the sky and proclaims to all who will listen that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Besides the pastors mentioned above many other priests have served as assistants in St. Bernard's Church. Many missionaries likewise have come here to strengthen the faith of the people and to refresh the memories of the people in regard to the truths of their religion.

Among the priests who have assisted the pastors in their work are the following:

Rev. John F. Rogers, Rev. J. O'Keefe, Rev. Thomas L. Lynch, Rev. Jeremiah J. Curtin, Rev. J. E. Clark, Rev. Thomas J. Murray,

SACRED HEART CHURCH OF VERNON

Rev. R. Bardek, Rev. P. Daley, Rev. A. Dykmans, Rev. Thomas H. Tiernan, Rev. J. M. Raniszewski, Rev. James L. Smith, Rev. Francis C. Higgins, Rev. Francis J. Hinchey, Rev. Frederick H. Olschefskie, Rev. John E. Cavanaugh, Rev. Francis P. Breen, Rev. Aloysius G. Geist, Rev. Charles H. Corcoran and Rev. Leonard T. Goode, and Rev. Stanley J. Nazzaro, Rev. Edmund J. Barrett, and Rev. Laurence Leclair.

On February 1, 1948, the territory of Vernon that lies outside the city limits of Rockville was added to St. Bernard's Parish. This includes the Sacred Heart Church of Vernon. The people, however, felt right at home, as their children have for many years attended St. Bernard's School, and they now are cared for by the clergy of their own town. In 1953 Vernon was made a parish in its own right, with Rev. Fr. Ralph Kelley as pastor.

Today the three towns of Vernon, Tolland, and Ellington make up St. Bernard's Parish. All Catholics and their friendly neighbors should rejoice because the year 1948 was the one hundredth anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in Rockville. Thousands now worship where only a handful assembled then. Peace and comfort have replaced hardship and uncertainty, and divine services are offered up to God by a devout and grateful congregation.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rockville, Connecticut, was organized on September 23, 1866, as the Lutheran Society and later known as the West Main Street German Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rockville of that day was predominantly a German settlement and because of this Rev. Hanser of a Boston congregation gave his attention and efforts to the needs of a Lutheran Church here. The first Church Council elected on that 23rd day of September was as follows: A. Lining, President; J. Bonnet, Vice-President; Charles Bausch, Secretary; G. Mann, Treasurer; and A. Laubscher, Collector. On October 7th the congregation held another meeting and reported that the membership of the congregation had grown to 97, with a treasury of $760. The Ladies' Aid Benevolent Society was organized shortly thereafter, likewise was a Sunday School founded at the time the church was dedicated.

On November 15th of that same year Rev. Graeber was called to become the first Pastor. Services were being held regularly in the Sunday School rooms of the Second Congregational Church. On April 2, 1867, the congregation acquired the present church property, which was owned at that time by the Methodists, for the sum of $6,250. The building had been built by the Baptists in 1850.

Pastor Graeber resigned in 1869 to go to Meriden, and the Rev. Simon succeeded him. He remained until 1871 when Rev. Frey was called. In 1874 Rev. Frey resigned to accept a call to serve in Albany, New York, and Rev. Soergel succeeded him. During his pastorate a new altar and pulpit were dedicated.

Also during those years some dissatisfaction arose because of congregational and personal requirements exacted from its members by the Missouri Synod and in June of 1882 Rev. Soergel severed connections with the congregation and, taking with him a small minority, organized another church in the city. Rev. C. A. Graepp, a member of the Canada Synod, was then called to serve the congregation. The church having been a member of the Missouri Synod for nine years, now affiliated with the New York Ministerium.

In 1886 the site of a parsonage was purchased and one erected at a cost of $2,000. In 1888 the Rev. Graepp resigned to serve in New York, and the Rev. G. F. Hartwig was called as Pastor. In

September, 1888, the first Luther League in Connecticut was organized and immediately accepted the obligation of a pipe organ at a cost of $650. The Ladies' Aid then paid off the remaining debt on the parsonage.

Through the years renovations and improvements were made. The store which had occupied the basement of the church was renovated to accommodate the Sunday School and various organizational meetings.

Various memorials have been placed in the church, among them an altar, lectern, bell and two chancel windows. In 1911 electric lights and fixtures were first installed. In 1914 a metal ceiling was installed in the sanctuary, being donated by the Ladies' Aid. In 1915 a 16 foot extension was constructed to the rear of the church, thus providing a chancel on the church level and a kitchen on the Sunday School level.

In 1919 the Rev. Hartwig resigned in order that he might retire and the Rev. Otten was called as Pastor. English services were then held twice a month. The Duplex Envelope System was introduced in 1920. During the ministry of Pastor Otten a Brotherhood and Sewing Circle were organized. In December, 1925, an electrically equipped Estey Organ costing over $4,000 was dedicated. In 1926 Rev. Otten accepted a call to Staten Island and the Rev. J. Bauchmann succeeded him as Pastor. During the pastorate of Rev. Bauchmann English services were conducted every Sunday. In 1927, a new and special heating system was installed and the entire first floor was renovated. In 1928 the name of the church was changed from the West Main Street German Evangelical Lutheran Church to the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and incorporated as such. The organization, the Busy Bees, was organized. The Church Council which formally consisted of twelve members was enlarged to nineteen members. Pastor Bauchmann resigned in 1929. He was succeeded by Pastor Drach. In 1930 a two-car garage was built at the parsonage for $490 and the old buildings were torn down. On October 5th a Harvest Home Festival was held. In 1931 Pastor Drach resigned and was succeeded by the Rev. K. O. Klette. In 1932 a sunporch was built on the parsonage by the financial efforts of the Sewing Circle. The Junior Choir was organized in 1935. In 1937 the church building was shingled and the tower structure revamped. In 1938 the sanctuary was redecorated. The parsonage was shingled in 1941. In 1944 the congregation gave nearly $900 to the Wagner-Hart-

wick College Appeal. In 1946 the heating system in the church and parsonage were converted to oil, the three oil burners being donated by two members.

The Rev. Gordon E. Hohl, of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Brewster, New York, was called in 1950, and occupied the pulpit of First Lutheran Church here for the first time on October 22, 1950.

During the past three years First Lutheran has paid its full apportionment to the United Lutheran Church in America, remitting $6,514 during the three-year period. In addition to this amount First Lutheran has also paid during the last three years $3,900 to other benevolent work of the church. First Lutheran is a mission-minded congregation. Also in 1953 First Lutheran went on a building drive to erect two new wings on its present building in order to provide individual rooms for Sunday School classes. The drive was successful and work was started the first part of July. On December 13, 1953, the new Parish Educational Units were dedicated, providing eight new classrooms, two cloakrooms and two new lavatories. The kitchen of the church was also enlarged and modernized, and the main Sunday School room was redecorated. In August of 1953, four young people from First Lutheran along with the Rev. and Mrs. Gordon E. Hohl attended the National Convention of the Luther League of America at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN TRINITY CHURCH

## GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN TRINITY CHURCH

This church was organized May 29, 1882, and incorporated in 1892 as the "German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church," the certificate of organization being filed on April 7, 1892. At that time the ecclesiastical society turned over the property to the church corporation.

This church was founded because of a schism in the original German Lutheran Church of Rockville, now the "First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rockville, Connecticut," affiliated with the United Lutheran Church. During the pastorate of the Rev. N. Soergel, who came in 1875, a disagreement arose on the question whether members of secret societies could be considered as true members of the church. In 1882, forty-two men withdrew from membership in the old church. They formed the Trinity congregation, which affiliated with the Missouri Synod, as that synod disapproved secret societies. Pastor Soergel, who sympathized with them, gave his farewell sermon on May 28, 1882, and on the following day joined in forming the new church. He became the first settled pastor, serving until November, 1885, when he accepted a call to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His successors in the pastorate have been: the Rev. Messrs. O. F. T. Hanser, 1886-1901; J. Heck of New York, 1901-5; W. von Schenk from Belleville, Illinois, 1905-21; A. Ulkus of Wildrose, North Dakota, 1921-23; and E. O. Pieper, 1923—.

The first meeting of the congregation, May 29, 1882, took place in a private house; the first service in a hotel. Later, while the church was being erected, services were conducted in the present building of St. John's Episcopal Church. The present church lot on Prospect Street was purchased for $300 and the church was built for $6500. The corner stone was laid on October 25, 1882, and on the third Sunday in Advent the first service was held in the basement.

The completed edifice was dedicated on June 3, 1883. It is an imposing, wooden-frame building, clapboarded and painted white, on a cut stone foundation, with a basement for school and parish rooms. The architectural style is that of the American Gothic revival, with doors and windows having pointed arches. The front entrance is through a square tower, which has a belfry with one bell and is surmounted by a lofty, shingled spire carrying

a weather vane. The first organ was obtained in 1890, installed by the Young People's Society; the present Austin organ was installed in May, 1926, and dedicated on August 22nd. On October 6, 1894, the Ladies' Aid Society bought a lot adjoining the church property for homes for the pastor and teacher.

Many additions and improvements have been made to the church, including a renovation, and a baptismal font presented by the Young People's Society in 1888; shingling the roof, paid for by the Ladies' Aid Society, 1905; a complete renovation, 1907; new heating system, 1907; alteration and renovation of the basement and installation of a kitchen, 1920; renovation and redecoration, 1926, paid for by the Ladies' Aid; chancel windows and candlesticks, 1926; complete renovation and redecoration and many memorial gifts at the fiftieth anniversary, May 29, 1932.

The parish school was opened by Pastor Hanser as a private undertaking about 1886, but in March, 1888, was taken over by the congregation. It was continued for many years in both English and German by various teachers and sometimes by the pastor himself. The enrollment fluctuated, but on the whole tended to decline, until in October, 1916, there were but 24 pupils. On July 3, 1917, the congregation therefore voted to discontinue it.

This church from time to time has taken charge of other churches and missions. Pastor Hanser served a mission at Broad Brook, begun under Pastor Frey of the original church (1872-75). This mission is mentioned as late as 1905, when Pastor von Schenk served it. Pastor Soergel started a mission in South Manchester, which later organized as a church with its own pastor, in 1891. It is now the Zion Church. In January, 1924, the parish assumed care of the Church of the Redeemer in Willimantic under the wise and consecrated guidance of Rev. E. O. Pieper, who came to Rockville in the year 1923. Mr. Pieper served the Church of the Redeemer for 17 years until it became an independent congregation. Services in German and in English were maintained until 1941, when the service in German was discontinued. The Communicant membership of the church stood at 200 in 1955 with 325 baptized persons in the parish. Mr. Pieper continues to serve with undiminished fervor after 32 years as pastor.

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The history of St. John's Parish, unlike that of many New England parishes, is relatively brief. The Episcopalians did not flourish here until the middle of the last century. Of course there were families of this communion living in Vernon, but they were too few to start a mission or even a Sunday School. If any one was overly particular as to how he was to be married or buried, there were churches in Hartford and East Hartford that could take care of his wants and cater to his peculiarities. Broad Brook was the nearest parish in 1847, when the Rev. Mr. Clerc united in marriage Dr. Alfred R. Goodrich and Miss Charlotte Dobson, probably in the Rockville home of the bride, (possibly it was Dobsonville).

The first Protestant Episcopal Church service ever held in Rockville was conducted by the Rev. Enoch Huntington, of Broad Brook, in the upper room of the Jabez Sears building on Market Street in 1851. Services were held a few times subsequently by Mr. Huntington in Keeney's hall. From 1851 to 1855 the Episcopalians of Rockville went to Broad Brook for their religious min-

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

istrations, but writing in the Parish Register of the Broad Brook Church in 1855 Mr. Huntington stated that he held a service in the "hall of the Rockville Hotel." The hall was crowded. It was thought that over 300 persons were present. This, he says, was the third service held there. He thought that at some future time a chapel might be built in Rockville to accommodate the Episcopalians. A Mrs. Chapman was at that time the proprietress of the hotel.

From 1855 to 1862 occasional services were held in Keeney's hall by Mr. Mines of Broad Brook and by Bishop Williams. From 1862 to 1865 the Sacraments were administered in private by Mr. Short, of Broad Brook.

From 1871 to 1873 services were kept up by the Rev. John T. Huntington of St. James' Church, Hartford, and by lay-readers—D. E. Peabody, W. B. Buckingham and others. Some of these services were held in the First Lutheran Church on West Main Street, others in a hall on Market Street, at or near Beer's Bakery. In 1872 the Parish was granted an organization by the Diocesan Convention of that year. In June 1873 the Rev. Harlow R. Whitlock (Deacon) was appointed Minister in Charge, and after his ordination to the Priesthood the following year, was made rector. He resigned in 1879.

The corner stone was laid October 2, 1874, with appropriate ceremonies. A tin box containing a Bible, a Prayer Book, and the records of the Parish was deposited in the stone.

On Tuesday afternoon, December 22, of that year, Bishop John Williams opened and dedicated the new building, corner of Talcott and Ellington Avenues, where formerly stood John Davis's large barn. Davis peddled milk in that territory at five cents a quart. A Mason and Hamlin organ had been purchased and placed in position on Saturday, the 19th of December. From early morning almost to the time of commencement of the exercises the weather was stormy. But suddenly and contrary to all expectations, the storm subsided, and the sun came out bright and warm. The Bishop in his address expressed earnest hope that the day might prove to have been emblematical of the Episcopal Church in Rockville, whose history hitherto had been in the main anything but sunshine.

Because no parish register was kept until Mr. Whitlock's time, one would have to look in the records of other parishes, like that of St. James, Hartford, or Grace Church, Broad Brook, for official

acts performed in Rockville, or for Rockville people. The first list of officers cannot be found. From the resignation of Mr. Whitlock in 1879 to 1884, services were conducted by lay-readers, Mr. Freeland of Trinity Church, Hartford, Jr. F. D. Buckley, afterward rector of Grace Church, Stafford Springs, and Trinity Church, Waterbury.

On the first Sunday in Advent the Rev. William Foster Bielby was appointed Rector, and a succession of resident pastors has continued to this day. Mr. Bielby also had charge of Broad Brook, thus reversing the procedure of earlier years and suggesting the growing strength of the Rockville congregation. Under this rector many basic improvements were made in the material fabric of the church. Laymen prominent in his time were William Randall, in whose memory a chancel window was placed, (still in use); Edward Hurlbert, William Austin, Thomas Hewitt.

Mr. Bielby resigned in June, 1888, and was followed by the Rev. Elijah J. Roke, from the diocese of Maryland. He served less than a year, resigning in April, 1889.

The Rev. Clarence E. Ball was the next rector, from April, 1889, to the summer of 1891. There was still a debt of $4500 on the church building when he left. He seems to have been energetic and a good executive, organizing the Woman's Aid Society and the Men's Guild. He also was the author of an elaborate code of by-laws, determining the conditions of legal membership, etc. The financial set-up was completely changed and all pews and sittings were made free.

Mr. Ball was followed by the Rev. Samuel Derby, after a year's interim, during which the Rev. J. B. Robinson was minister in charge. Mr. Derby succeeded in getting a handsome and convenient rectory built in 1895. Incidentally the "founding fathers" made a very wise choice in selecting the location of the church and rectory, a fine residential section,with no danger of encroachments from business or industry to mar the Sabbath peace. The Rev. Robert Clarkson Tongue succeeded Mr. Derby in 1896 and was the rector for three years. He was a very able young man, wrote poems for "The Youth's Companion" occasionally, and was called to a much larger parish in Meriden, where he died after a brief but memorable ministry.

The Rev. John H. George was the next rector (1899-1915). Under Mr. George, a very consecrated and devoted pastor and teacher, the choir was vested and a new organ installed. The

church was consecrated by Bishop Chauncy Bunce Brewster, May 30, 1905. The Rev. John W. Woessner, of West Texas, was minister in charge for a few months in 1915, or until the Rev. Edward T. Mathison was called to be rector in October of that year. He served during the First World War and until the fall of 1923. His efforts resulted in the purchase of the "Church House" at 5 Talcott Avenue. This is not a Parish House, but a two-family dwelling which is rented and supposed to be a source of revenue for the parish.

The next rector was the Rev. Henry B. Olmstead, who came to St. John's in March, 1924, and retired in 1950.

In twenty-four years many things have been accomplished. A continuous procession of memorials has greatly enriched the appearance of the church, so that the little temple on the hill is generally pronounced "Very pretty." A very useful addition was made in the summer of 1925 on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the building of the church. The Church and Rectory were connected by a structure which comprises a kitchen in the basement with a choir room above.

This historical sketch is chiefly that of a procession of rectors. They came and went, usually after a very short stay, but the permanent work, the real building was done by the lay people, so many that they cannot be mentioned here. The long and useful rectorship of Rev. Henry B. Olmstead, of twenty-five years, includes a long list of prominent men and women which it would be unfair to publish because many others would be omitted. Here is the list of officers in 1924 when Mr. Olmstead arrived, and the officers of this year.

In 1924 the Senior Warden was Sherwood C. Cummings, the Junior Warden, George W. Randall. The Vestrymen included, Joseph Prichard, Frederick Elliott, R. Earl Elliott, Albert H. Hewitt, Joseph Moss, Joseph Grist, Alfred Hobro, Joseph Brierly, Charles Underwood, Enoch Austin and Walter J. Kent. The officers at the present writing are: Senior Warden, William Kuhnly; Junior Warden, Roland Wise; Treasurer, Robert Nutland; Parish Clerk, William Nutland. The Vestrymen are: Albert H. Hewitt, R. Earl Elliott, Dr. Douglas Roberts, Werner Greunig, Russell Taylor.

At the retirement of the Rev. Henry B. Olmstead, the Rev. Maurice G. Foulkes became the rector, taking up his official duties in July of 1951. Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead passed away within a few days of each other in March of 1952.

## THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Apostolic Christian Church, now located in Ellington on Butcher Road, but originally built on Orchard Street, has the distinction of being the only one of that denomination in the New England States.

Discontented young farmers of Switzerland and Sweden began pouring into the States about the year 1860. The Homestead Act of 1862, whereby land was given free, proved a fresh stimulation to underpaid farm workers of those countries, and the peak of immigration was reached in 1882, when 64,607 persons came to the Promised Land.

The record of the citizens of Swiss ancestry is a highly honorable one. Among their admirable qualities are a keen sense of responsibility, pride in their work, caution, patience, and deep-rooted respect for law and order. They are gifted and reliable.

Between 1890 and 1900 a small group of Swiss farmers came to Rockville. For a time they held religious meetings in houses. In the year 1891 twenty-five members built a small church on Thomas Street, No. 58. Their numbers grew to one hundred. The walk to Fox Hill for worship was difficult, and Alfred Schneider's father deeded land on Orchard Street to the members in 1899.

In the diary of John Newton there is a paragraph dated Tuesday, May 2, 1899, which reads "Contracted with the Apostolic Christian Church to buy 35,000 brick at $4.25 for labor."

The church stood until April, 1908, when an incendiary fire destroyed the building. The new building was erected immediately of stone and brick, with a superstructure of wood, and a commodious basement. Until 1925 all services were in German, from 1925 to 1940 German and English, and now English only. The membership has grown to 235, with a Sunday School of 125. John Bahler, an ordained elder elected by the congregation, and a council of elders have charge of all church matters.

And now in 1954 a new church is nearly completed on Butcher Road. It is commodious and magnificent. The cost is $200,000, and so wonderful is the loyalty of members and friends that the noble sum of $179,000 has been pledged.

The trustees of the church are John Zahner, Fred Luginbuhl, John Moser, Jr.; Treasurer, William Schneider; Elder, John Bahler.

## ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

A large group of Polish people employed in woolen, worsted and silk factories in the city established their own church under the name of St. Joseph's Church, also a rectory, school, convent, and sexton's house.

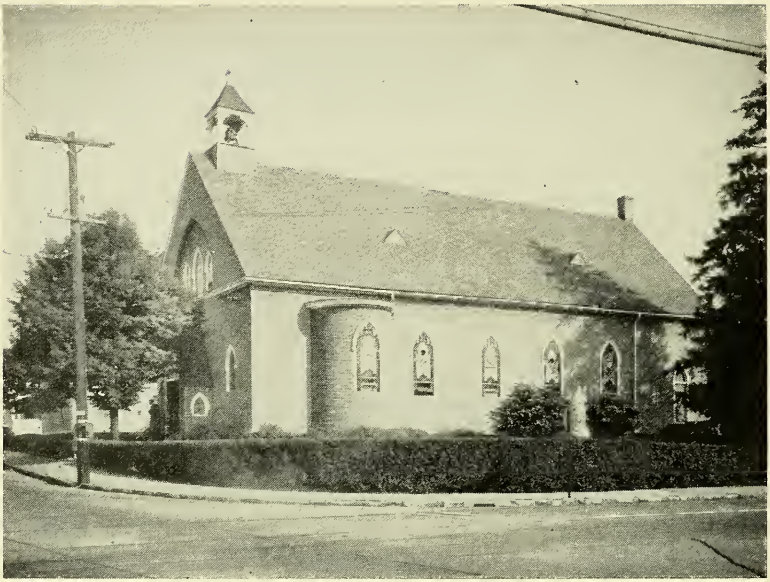
They came from all parts of Poland more than a hundred years ago, 1850, family after family, and their aim was eventually to establish their own parish and to carry forward the faith of their fathers. There were finally about 300 families living in the city.

The first step was the organization of the St. Joseph's Society, which planned the work of starting a parish. There were many difficulties in the way, but the Rev. L. Bonjnowski, of New Britain, assisted in guiding the undertaking, also Rev. St. Lozowski, of Hartford. The people bought land at the corner of Union and West Streets and a temporary church was built in readiness for the first pastor, Rev. Carol Wotypka, from New Britain, who was appointed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Tierney, then Bishop of the Hartford diocese.

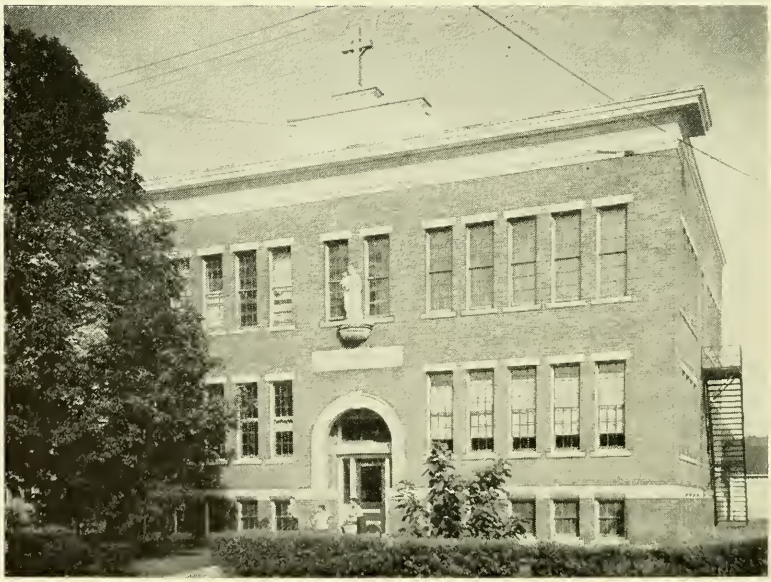
Rev. Carol Wotypka at once started work with the aid of his congregation in building the new church, which still stands on Union and West Streets. He adopted a novel plan for raising money for the church. He called upon his parishioners to cooperate with him in defraying the expenses connected with the building of the church. They responded unselfishly, and nobly set aside two days' pay each month for the first six months and then one day's pay each month for a year. About $7,000 was soon paid on the church. There are about 900 Polish people in the city. Rev. Wotypka worked arduously for three years until his health failed.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, October 29, 1905. Bishop Tierney officiated at the services and complimented the members on their fine spirit. The sermon was delivered by Rev. W. A. Becker, of Bridgeport, in Polish. A choir of twenty voices sang Gounod's Mass in C in a very creditable manner. Rev. Kruszynski, of Bridgeport, delivered the sermon at the Vesper Service.

The building is of Gothic style of architecture, and is built of wood. The bell in the tower was given by the Springville Manufacturing Company. The Society of St. Joseph's, composed of men of the parish, donated $565 out of their treasury for the new



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH



ST. JOSEPH'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

marble altar, and the statue of St. Joseph, facing on Union Street.

Following the Rev. Carol Wotypka was the Rev. Joseph Culkowski, appointed by the Bishop of Hartford. He worked hard for the people, but poor health made it necessary for him to give up his work.

The church then received Rev. Max Soltysek, who was appointed pastor. He labored untiringly for eight years. On his arrival he interested his congregation in the great need of a parish school. It was possible through his efforts to add to St. Joseph's Church the parish school, which is now used daily by the school children. Rev. Max Soltysek was transferred by the Bishop to St. Mary's Polish Church in Middletown, Connecticut.

Rev. Leo Wierzynski served as pastor for a short time, working with his people for not quite a year. He then went to Poland, where he died.

The fifth pastor of the church came from St. Joseph's Church, Suffield, Rev. Francis Wladasz. The kind ways and deeds of Father Wladasz are still fresh in the memories of many of his congregation to this day. During his four years he made many improvements to the church property, and purchased adjoining property, including the sexton's house.

Then Rev. Stephen Bartkowski came to take up his duties. During his six years he built the rectory, practically paying for it at the time it was built, as well as paying on the large debt on the parish.

Rev. Sigismud Woroniecki came in November, 1927, from Southington, and died here in 1949, after twenty-two years of faithful service. He made improvements in the church property, including redecorations. The debt was paid, St. Joseph's Band was organized, and eight societies are doing good work.

Rev. Hyacinth A. Lepak, educated at Hartford High School, St. Thomas Seminary, and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's November 6, 1949. He was ordained into the priesthood in the year 1931 in Fribourg, Switzerland.

His principal aim upon arrival in Rockville was to reorganize and revitalize the parish, with the intention of building a new church to seat at least 700. Plans are in preparation to carry out that purpose.

St. Joseph's Church has a membership of approximately 1650, and the school, taught by Sisters of the Felician Order, consists of 300 children.

## THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Napoleon Hall started a mission among the colored people of Rockville and vicinity in the year 1917. For several months they held prayer meetings in homes, and organized in the spring of 1918 at the home of Mr. McKnight on Fox Hill. Later on, the Rockville Baptist Church opened its doors to them and they met in the vestry on Sunday evenings at 7:30.

There were ninety-eight colored people in Rockville in 1920, and, assisted by the Baptist Convention, they dedicated a Meeting House at 6 Davis Avenue, on January 9, 1921. Rev. Napoleon Hall was in charge of the services, and Rev. Dr. A. B. Coates, of Hartford, delivered the sermon. The church was a double house, one side of it being used by the pastor for a residence, and the other rooms for worship.

In 1926 the Baptist Convention could no longer support the church. The property was sold, and the few members became utterly discouraged.

B'NAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

## CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

In 1913, the possibility of some day having its own place of worship was just a remote dream in the minds of the tiny Jewish population of Rockville. In the summer of that year, the community purchased its first Sefer Torah. During the Simchas Torah celebration of that event, a newly married girl named Mrs. Fanny Giber, noting how many ladies there were in town who seemed to be interested, thought that they ought to do something about organizing a club or group to knit the community together more closely. So in December, 1913, a group of 13 women met at the Giber home and formed an organization to be known as The Rockville Hebrew Ladies' Society. The charter members were:

Mrs. Giber, President
Mrs. Brown, Vice-President
Mrs. Spector, Secretary
Mrs. Winer, Treasurer

and the Misses Gordon, Block, Blonstein, Goldberg, Ginsburg, Fillman, Lebeshevsky, Vishovsky, Kelman, Klatz, and Goldman.

The purpose of the Society was mainly charitable and to maintain the Jewish way of life in the community. Worship in those days was held at the Giber home where the Sefer Torah was kept, except for the high holidays when a hall was hired for the occasion. From 1924 through 1931, the Jewish community rented space sometimes in the Masonic Hall, and at other times in the Hartford-Connecticut Trust building.

The meetings of the ladies took place at the homes of the various members. Dues were paid and any money collected was used for charity. For some time there were meetings twice a month, once for social purposes and once for business. All this time, little by little, money was being saved toward the hope of buying a "shul."

The earliest complete records of the B'nai Israel Sisterhood date back to November, 1930. The previous records were destroyed in the fire in the early part of 1930. In those days it was not the Sisterhood B'nai Israel but the Rockville Hebrew Ladies' Society.

At last, in 1931, a building which is now the Red Men's Hall, on East Main Street, was purchased from the Rockville Athletic

Association. To be sure, it was dilapidated, it needed a coat of paint, the interior was in great disrepair, but it represented the realization of a long desired wish--a place of worship and a place for the community to hold its social affairs. It was used as a Synagogue, School and Community Center, through the end of 1945. At this time, "Sunset Castle," the magnificent Belding property on Talcott Avenue was purchased, and the previous building sold to the Red Men. The Rabbi is Aaron Twersky.

At the time of the first meeting in the new building there were 22 members. It was then voted to change the name of the organization from the Rockville Hebrew Ladies' Association to the Sisterhood of the Congregation B'nai Israel, and the purpose of the Sisterhood was to be primarily to work for the school.

TALCOTTVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## TALCOTTVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The first Talcottville House of Worship was commenced April 9, 1866, and completed March 12, 1867. The commodious and beautiful sanctuary was built and furnished throughout, including the lecture room, by the brothers Horace Wells and Charles Denison Talcott, entirely at their expense, and the use of it presented to the Congregational Church in Talcottville, "so long as said church shall sustain the preaching of the gospel and other connected means of grace, according to the Faith and Order of the Fathers."

The first prayer meeting in the lecture room was held Saturday evening, December 1, 1866. In this room public worship on the Sabbath, by those intending to be organized into a church and ecclesiastical society, was held for the first time December 2, 1866, when the venerable Rev. Joel Hawes, D.D., of Hartford, officiated with great appropriateness and power. After this, public worship was regularly held on the Sabbath in the lecture room until March 13, 1867, when 41 members were dismissed from Vernon in forming Talcottville Church, the House of the Lord dedicated, and Rev. George A. Oviatt installed as pastor according to Congregational usage.

The number comprising the church at its organization was seventy-four, sixty-four by letters from other churches and ten by public confession of faith. Within a year and a half, there were added eighty-four; thirty-nine by letter and forty-five by confession.

The regular meetings of the church, aside from those of public worship on the Lord's Day, were held on the Sabbath, Thursday and Saturday evenings.

The Sabbath School was organized December 2, 1866, with sixty-four teachers and scholars and deacon Horace W. Talcott as superintendent. Deacon Talcott held this position until he died in 1871, at which time he was succeeded by Deacon C. Denison Talcott. Following the latter's death in 1882 Deacon H. G. Talcott was chosen as superintendent and he served until his death in 1917, after which John G. Talcott was chosen. For many years the latter continued in office although not able to serve. However, he was ably assisted by associate superintendents: Miss Stanwood, Franklin G. Welles, and John G. Talcott, Jr. M. H. Talcott also acted as treasurer for many years.

The early pastors of the Talcottville Church were Rev. George A. Oviatt, Rev. John P. Hawley, Rev. Theodore L. Day, Rev. George H. Pratt, Rev. Jonathan Wadhams, Rev. Foster R. Waite, Rev. David L. Yale.

It was during Rev. Yale's pastorate that the burning of the church occurred on October 30, 1906. That very evening he had been using his large telescope near the church, allowing his friends to gaze at the wonders of the sky. Instead of taking it home as was his custom, he left it in the church, and in the morning it was completely destroyed. A bucket brigade was formed by the citizens of the town, but all efforts were in vain. Many records were lost in the fire, too. The offices of Talcott Brothers, woolen manufacturers, were in the lower part of the church building and these were burned out or buried under the debris of the falling walls.

Services were held in the schoolhouse the Sunday after the fire and continued there until the hall over the store was made into a chapel, where services were continued for some time.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid on Sunday afternoon, June 30, 1912, by Deacon H. G. Talcott. The first public services were held May 4, 1913, and on June 24, 1913, was held the Dedication of the House of Worship and the installation of the pastor, Rev. Francis P. Bachelor, Rev. David L. Yale having resigned.

DEDICATION AND INSTALLATION OF PASTOR
June 24, 1913

Organ Prelude—Adagio, Fifth Sonata
Anthem, "Hark, hark my soul"
Invocation—Rev. Charles W. Burt, of Bolton
Reading of Records of Council—Scribe
Scripture Lesson—Rev. D. E. Jones, of Ellington
Sermon—Rev. W. Douglas MacKenzie, D.D., LL.D.

The first funeral in the new church was held on June 30, 1913, when L. Pitkin Talcott passed away. The pastors following Rev. Francis P. Bachelor were Rev. George W. Stephenson, Rev. Thomas Street, Rev. Ernest Gordon, Rev. James A. Bull and Rev. Everett A. Murphy.

Talcottville Church has always been interested in missionary work. In September of 1866, six months before the first church service, a loyal group of 45 women and 18 men organized the Home Missionary Society.

At the 100th Anniversary Celebration at the First Meeting House of Vernon, September 26, 1926, Miss Alice F. Dexter, representing Talcottville Church, spoke of transportation difficulties in the early days:

> "In a far corner of the Town of Vernon was a small group of houses collected around a manufacturing plant forming a village just too far for all to get to church and to the weekly prayer meetings, so accommodations were made to help those who so desired to attend the church services. Early on Sunday mornings someone went from house to house to find out who wanted to go to church, a four-seated omnibus holding 12, also smaller wagons, were provided, and those who could not ride walked."

> "Because of the distance Mr. N. O. Kellogg opened his mill office for Saturday evening prayer meetings. The choir was largely composed of volunteers filling several rows of seats."

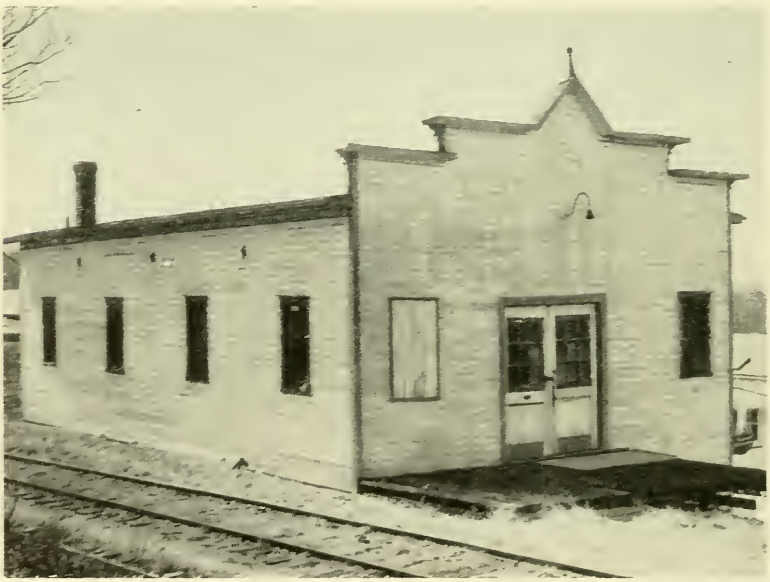
At the 75th Anniversary of the Talcottville Church on Friday, March 13, 1942, John G. Talcott expressed his appreciation to the church members for installing a loud speaker in his home, whereby he could enjoy all the church services when not able to leave his home. A microphone had been installed over the pulpit. Mr. John G. Talcott passed away November 2, 1944, but the memory of his noble character will be cherished for ever.

## THE SALVATION ARMY

The brief career of the Salvation Army in Rockville has been a peculiar mixture of joy and sorrow. In the year 1886 its enthusiastic members packed the Rockville Hall and Opera House at many meetings. The city became one of the most important posts of the Army in the State of Connecticut.

On Saturday, January 29, 1887, a Salvation Army Temple was dedicated. It was a wooden building, erected on land now occupied by the Rockville Grain and Coal Company, Brooklyn Street. The temple had no architectural charm, but the interior was bright and cheery. Many Bible texts adorned the walls, and over the platform hung the framed picture of General Booth.

The festive occasion began with a banquet at the Rockville Hall on the 29th from five to eight o'clock. The dedication exercises followed. Captain Edwin Gay, D.O., gave the address. There was much band music. The temple was presented to the Corps in charge of Captain Terry and wife and his successors, to be used as "a free house of prayer, to which everybody would



SALVATION ARMY TEMPLE

be welcomed, and there would be no pew rents." It is said that this was the first Salvation Army Temple erected in Connecticut.

George Washington, the colored hero of Danbury, a happy, rollicking young man, fairly bubbling over with joy, spoke with great fervor. He told the large audience the devil had had him for thirty-five years, but now he was a witness for God. He accepted the Baptist faith, but he loved the Salvation Army. The celebration continued through Sunday and Monday.

The evangelistic work of the Army was supported locally by many good citizens, but there were some who were offended by their open air meetings, and the tinkling of the Salvation Army bell on the sidewalk attracted an organized gang of hoodlums determined to drive the "warriors" away.

Several times they were ordered to move away from the Doane Block where they held their open air meetings, as tenants in the block complained that the crowd interfered with business. The question of permitting the Salvation Army to parade the streets with music was discussed at meetings of the City Council in 1892, and the evangelists became too discouraged to continue their work in Rockville.

Let it be said that the citizens respond nobly to the annual solicitation of the Salvation Army under local sponsorship.

From the "War-Cry," comes an item of local interest:

The Rev. Edward Payson Hammond lived at Vernon Center in the early part of the nineteenth century. He was an independent evangelist, carrying his message to many colleges and communities in America. He traveled to England, and there had friendly association with William Booth, who later became the founder of the Salvation Army. Because of the counsel he gave Booth at a time when William was the pastor of a Methodist Church, and was inclined to leave that denomination for the Salvation Army work, he liked to be acknowledged as "the Grandfather of the Salvation Army."

Rev. Edward Payson Hammond, M.A., was the author of "The Conversion of Children," "Children and Jesus," "Sketches of Palestine," "Better Life," "Jesus the Lamb of God," "Gathered Lambs," "Golden Gleanings," "Jesus and the Little Ones," "The Child's Guide to Heaven," "The Blood of Jesus," from 1872 to 1882.

He conducted revival services at home and abroad: England, Scotland, Wales, in Charleston, South Carolina, Orangebury, Columbia, Montreal. Biddle University at Charlotte, North Carolina, Washington, D. C., and visited the Holy Land.

## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

As a result of interest aroused through the healing in Christian Science of Mr. Orrin C. West of Rockville, of rheumatism and extreme profanity, a small group of students of Christian Science met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Doane during the summer of 1907. Mrs. Doane had been healed of grief and a nervous condition brought about by the passing of her daughter. Mr. William Hibbard, brother of Mrs. Doane, attended some of these services which started his interest in Christian Science and resulted in his healing in 1908 from a serious nervous breakdown. Ten or twelve attended the services, two or three coming from Manchester, Connecticut, others from Rockville, and a Mrs. Felts of Hartford gave much encouragement.

The first business meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Doane on December 11, 1907, for the purpose of hiring a

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

hall for the Sunday morning services. Forester's Hall was rented from the date of December 29, 1907, to July, 1909, when Masonic Hall was procured. Services were held there from that date, with the exception of a short time when these students went through a period of deep waters. Miss Ida Martin, a consecrated and faithful worker, passed on while First Reader. The financial conditions were such that Masonic Hall was vacated and meetings were held at various places. No record was kept from June 22, 1911, to October 19, 1913.

A meeting was held December 14, 1913, in Masonic Hall. It was voted to form a Society and insert an announcement in the Christian Science Journal. In the early part of 1914 the Society was formed according to the Manual of The Mother Church by Mary Baker Eddy. The exact date is not recorded.

It was voted August 5, 1917, to have a Wednesday evening meeting once a month for testimonies of healing. The first of these meetings was held on September 12, 1917, and these meetings continued once a month until September, 1930, when it was decided to have them every Wednesday. A Sunday School was started July 13, 1930. The first Christian Science lecture was given May 15, 1932.

The growth of this Society has been slow but sturdy. The interest in Christian Science in Rockville is increasing and there is more growth in the Society now than at any time in its history.

It was voted July 14, 1941, to purchase the attractive Charter property at 94 Union Street, Rockville, for a Church home.

The first service in this new Church home was held on Thanksgiving Day, November 20, 1941. It was a joyful occasion. Many visitors from surrounding towns were present, and many testimonials of gratitude were given.

No Christian Science Church is dedicated until it is free from debt. The working out of the financial problem was a beautiful demonstration. It was a happy occasion when this Church was dedicated free from debt on June 28, 1942, with three services. The First Reader in his dedication message gave the history of the Church and expressed much gratitude to God for His goodness.

The organization of Christian Science consists of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, and its branches. Some of the branches are churches and

others Societies. The Bible and the Christian Science text book are the only preachers.

When a Society can qualify, according to the Manual of The Mother Church, written by Mary Baker Eddy, it may become a Church. The local Society was dissolved and all of its property was transferred to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Rockville, Connecticut, February 18, 1946. Christian Science Society, Rockville, Connecticut, became an incorporated church June 10, 1946.

## YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Eighty-five years ago a meeting was held in the lecture room of the First Congregational Church of Rockville to organize a local Young Men's Christian Association. The date—Wednesday evening, July 14, 1869. Alonzo Bailey was president, and E. C. Chapman acted as secretary. Prayer was offered by Mr. Frink. A copy of the constitution of the Hartford Y.M.C.A. was read, and Mr. Kellogg, Jr., moved that this organization be made a Young People's Association instead of a Young Men's Christian Association. The resolution was accepted, and a constitution adopted.

The Association flourished for a number of years and then declined. Thirty years later, the Rockville Journal of Friday, September 22, 1899, stated:

> "A meeting was held in the old Boys' Club building in the rear of the Methodist Church for the purpose of organizing a Young Men's Christian Association. There was quite a number of young men present. A Constitution was adopted. The object of the organization is the physical, mental, and spiritual development of the young men. The large room is to be fitted up as a gymnasium, the small room to be used as a reading room and library." That flourished for a number of years and then declined.

And in spite of many conscientious efforts to revive and sustain a Y.M.C.A. the worthy organization is now inactive.

## JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

A decade ago the religious order, Jehovah's Witnesses, approved by the Watchtower Society, was organized in Rockville, and Kingdom Hall was established at 22 Ward Street. Ten Witnesses met for Bible study weekly. Because of a growing number

of adherents, the congregation moved to more commodious rooms at 41 Orchard Street in May, 1950.

Their activities include a Bible discourse every Sunday at 3 P.M.; at 4:15 a study of The Watchtower Magazine; at 7 P.M. on Wednesday instruction is given for house to house preaching; at 8 P.M. on Friday further study of the Bible.

## UNITARIANS

In the year 1896, Unitarians met in Mechanics Hall and organized, but did not long continue their worship services.

## SPIRITUALISTS

Spiritualist meetings were held in the Tolland woods in 1857, and a four-horse wagon load of believers attended regularly from Rockville.

## A RELIGIOUS CENSUS

A religious census of the town of Vernon, undertaken by the Connecticut Bible Society in 1921, revealed church affiliation as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Baptist | 268 | Methodist | 534 |
| Congregational | 1537 | Christian Science | 16 |
| Episcopal | 343 | Catholic | 3676 |
| Jewish | 103 | Apostolic | 124 |
| Lutheran | 981 | Socialist | 12 |
| | No preference | 147 | |

In the same census were listed 27 nationalities, among them:

| | |
|---|---|
| American | 3068 |
| English | 234 |
| German | 1390 |
| Polish | 1532 |
| Italian | 179 |

A religious census was also taken in the City of Rockville in 1955, and revealed the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Protestants | 6077 |
| Roman Catholic | 5812 |
| Jewish | 315 |

# SECTION IV

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# EDUCATION

## THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OF VERNON

Religion and education went hand in hand. As soon as settlements were made, first the meeting house was erected, and almost simultaneously action was taken toward the erection of a schoolhouse. A School Society was established, a self-appointed representative committee of the parish interested in school matters. The earliest schoolhouses were built in the southern part of the town—Vernon Center, Dobsonville, Phoenixville and Valley Falls. At a town meeting at Vernon Center on November 28, 1793, with Mr. Caleb Talcott as Moderator and Lemuel King as Clerk, it was voted to build a schoolhouse. Other interesting and important actions of that first meeting and later ones as reported in an old Record Book of North Bolton in the possession of the Selectmen's office:

Voted to set the schoolhouse between Mr. John's and the hill east of there on the north side of that highway. (There is reason to believe the site was opposite the dwelling house of Mr. Henry Marcham, which was built in 1762 and still stands on the south-side of the highway.)

Chose Mr. Ira West and Hezekiah Loomis as committee to hire a person or persons to build said schoolhouse.

Voted to pay for building schoolhouse by making a tax on the list August 20, 1793.

Voted that the Person or Persons that should agree with said Committee to build the house engage to have it finished by the first day of November next, and should bind themselves to do it off as well as the house of M. Pearl. (The Pearls' property stood a little west of Marchams'.)

Voted to pay said person or persons in money by the first November next.

Voted that said house be twenty feet long and seventeen feet wide.

A year later, November 4, 1794, at a school meeting holden at the schoolhouse, it was voted to accept the schoolhouse according to agreement; Mr. Eli Hammond, the school committee, was instructed to hire a Master and set up a schoolroom. It was voted that the price for three feet wood be five shillings, and that each

member of the District have liberty to fetch his proportion of wood for the scholars he sends.

Protecting the Property:

It was voted on October 22, 1795, that there be a fine of 50 cents for a square of glass that is broken in either of the windows in the schoolhouse. If not replaced within the ten days after it was broken by their parents, guardians or masters, and if the said parents, guardians or masters should refuse to do the same, the committee is impowered to collect the same of the delinquent and his cost.

Money for winter and summer schools:

Mr. Leonard Rogers was the school committee in 1796, and it was voted that he hire a master and set up a school by the first of December, and that he lay out two-thirds of the money in the winter and the other in a summer school.

A School Society was formed in October, 1796. At this meeting a committee was appointed to "procure Masters and Misses in their respective districts." The following are the names of that committee: Reuben Skinner, Talcott Flint, John Olcott, Leonard Rogers, Benjamin Talcott, Jr., and Elijah Johns.

The first meetings of this School Society were held in the old meeting house of North Bolton. In 1808, a committee was appointed to visit and inspect the various schools of the town. The first committee so appointed consisted of Scottoway Hinckley, Oliver King, Benjamin Talcott, Jr., and Thomas H. Kellogg.

Salary of a Teacher for the summer:

On March 12, 1798, it was voted to hire Mabel Richardson four months this summer at six shillings and sixpence per week. Voted to pay by the Poll after the public money is used. In the same year, it was voted that the Committee hire a man to whitewash the schoolhouse as cheap as possible.

Prices for wood, painting and boarding:

The meeting on April 5, 1799, voted to give one dollar per cord for three feet of wood for the coming winter; one dollar per week for Boarding the School Master this winter; and it was decided to raise a tax of one cent on the dollar on last August's list to paint the schoolhouse and building of a new chimney.

Four years later it was voted to give seven shillings for each cord of firewood, three feet long, corded at the schoolhouse.

Allowance of wood per scholar:

On October 31, 1805, it was voted that each scholar that attend this school shall get half cord three feet wood by the 16th day of November next, the wood to be chopped and corded at the schoolhouse, and be liable to his proportion of board, if said wood is not gotten by that time shall pay cash for each half cord of wood not got.

Improvements to Property:

In 1815 it was voted to take down the chimney to the schoolhouse and rebuild with brick and tax the District on list of 1814 to pay the expense of building the chimney.

Cutting down expenses: The meeting on October 29, 1821, voted to get a quarter cord of 18-inch wood to a scholar instead of half cord, but in 1829 Otis McLean agreed to get the wood at eighty-seven cents per cord, payable at the first of April, 1831. In that year of 1829, it was voted that the State Fund money be appropriated ($33.50) for winter school, society tax to pay for summer school.

Teacher's Salary: On March the 27th of 1839, it was voted to pay the teacher $1.50 per week, provided she will board at home over the Sabbath, and do her washing free of charge.

Building a schoolhouse in the northeast district: On April 15, 1839, the meeting voted to build a schoolhouse in the northeast district at a cost of $300 to be raised on the list of 1840, payable in January, 1841. A building committee was appointed consisting of Thaddeus C. Bruce, Elijah Chapman, Austin Tilden.

It was a one-room schoolbuilding on the Hartford Turnpike, Route 30, opposite the Gilbert Ahearn home, on the south side of the turnpike. It was later moved to the east side of East Street, opposite Hale Street, on the south side of the western entrance to the Fair Grounds (Hyde Park).

This old school building is now the ell part of the home of Mrs. Alfred Henke, of New York, who visits Rockville and occupies the home week ends. So the old Northeast School building is now the kitchen, pantry and bathroom of Mrs. Alfred Henke's home.

Repairing the old schoolhouse: The question of repairing the old schoolhouse or building a new one came up for discussion, and on November 7, 1840, it was voted to make a thorough repair on

the old schoolhouse. This amounted to $249.79 and a tax of thirteen cents on the Grand List paid the bill.

Question of teacher's salary: In October, 1841, it was voted to hire Capt. Smith if he can be hired for eighteen dollars per month for yearly months, he boarding himself over the Sabbath and do his washing. The next year it was voted that we set up a school for the term of five months, with a vacation of two weeks in the middle of the term, provided that a teacher can be had for the sum of one dollar a week, and board in the district, said school to commence on the first Monday in May next.

Defining the Boundary Line: Thaddeus C. Bruce was appointed agent to apply to the school society to have the boundary line of the northeast school district defined on the north. This was in May, 1844. At the same meeting it was voted that we authorize the teacher to take charge of the children going to and returning from the school and also at intermission. [Even then, some pupils were as wayward as the March winds.]

On September 30, 1847, it was voted to postpone moving the schoolhouse to the center of district, and instruct the committee to make necessary repairs and paint the schoolhouse.

Schoolhouse moved to Center: About the year 1850 the small schoolhouse on the hill was moved to the center to meet the needs of a growing population. It stood for twenty years opposite the present Congregational Church on a site which later became the Willes property.

In the year 1870 it was moved near the church, a second story was added to it, and still stands, no longer a schoolhouse but as a fire house.

Effort to build another schoolhouse failed: On October 21, 1850, a motion was made that the scholars on the north side of the stream that runs from Snipsic Pond have the money they draw to set up another school. The motion being put, it was found to stand thus—6 in favor of the motion and 21 against.

The tax per scholar per day: March 17, 1858, voted that there be a tax of three quarters of a cent on the attendance of each scholar per day.

Voted that those who live out of the district be taxed one and a quarter cents on the attendance.

Desire for a Library: December 13, 1858, voted that this district appropriate ten dollars for a district library. Voted that L. H.

Chapman be appointed a Committee to draw the money from the State Treasury. Voted that L. H. Chapman and T. C. Bruce be appointed a committee to confer with the Board of Education in reference to a library and to purchase the books.

School Visitations: Voted on September 30, 1859, that a committee be appointed to visit the school once in three weeks.

Voters at Meetings of School Board: On October 7, 1859, voted that all those who are not legal voters to "set by themselves."

Northeast School District fails to make report: The Northeast School District having failed to make their annual appointment of officers legally, we, the members of the Board of School Visitors do hereby appoint Hubbard Tucker for District Committee and L. H. Chapman clerk and treasurer for the remaining part of this school year 1860-1.

L. G. Risley
P. H. Talcott
A. C. Crosby—School Visitors.

Paying the Tax Collector: On September 23, 1861, voted that we proceed to an informal ballot for committees.

Voted to allow the collector two cents on a dollar for collecting the taxes.

The last meeting recorded in the book is an adjourned school meeting held at the schoolhouse October 7, 1861.

Voted to hire a teacher to commence the School first Monday of November. Voted that the Committee be instructed to purchase what wood is necessary.

## THE HIGH SCHOOL IN VERNON

In the fall of 1829. the Vernon School Society voted "to establish a school of a higher order," and appointed a committee to carry this vote into effect. A similar vote was passed annually with but three or four exceptions until 1856 when the School Societies were abolished. and the schools came under the control of the towns. The school thus established was held, during winter terms only, in the upper room of the school house of the Center District, and was the "upper school" for that district, which furnished a large proportion of its scholars, but it was also the "High School" for the whole town, until the growth of Rockville called

also for a similar school in that part of the town.

The people of Vernon were greatly interested in the subject of education, especially during the first part of the period under review. The High School was usually well kept, and many of the pupils made good use of their privileges. Besides advanced classes in the studies taught in the district schools, there were classes in Algebra, Geometry, and Mental and Natural Philosophy; and sometimes in Chemistry, Surveying, Logic and other "higher branches" of learning. A few students in Latin and Greek received here a part of their preparation for college. Special attention was given to Composition and Declamation, and there were often thought to be marked indications of genius in the exercises of those Wednesday afternoons. More ambitious efforts were made in the "exhibitions" which often closed the school term.

There are men now sedate with cares and years, from Connecticut to California, who, with some mild mistrust of their own identity, recall the enthusiasm with which they appeared before crowded audiences in the "Conference Room" of the church at Vernon, declaiming choice extracts in prose or verse, arrayed in robes befitting their "parts" in dialogues. There were giants in those days—some school masters of the old-fashioned art—stern embodiments of wisdom, whims and crotchets.

It is not easy to ascertain who were the teachers of this High School through all its period. Here is a partial list—Theodore L. Wright, 1829-30 and 1830-31; highly successful; Mr. Knox, 1831-32; George C. Partridge, 1832-33; Alvan Talcott, 1833-34; Brewster Lyman, 1834-35; Mr. McCall, 1835-36; Francis L. Dickinson, 1836-37 and 1837-38; Mr. Nills, 1838-39; Homer Sears, 1839-40; Charles S. Minor, 1840-41; Stephen Fenn, 1848-49; William R. Lyon, 1855-56. Partridge and Graves graduated from Amherst; Minor and Fenn from Yale; and Lyon from Williams.

Before the High School was established, there was a select school in the winter of 1815-16, taught by Julius Steele Barnes. It was kept in the red house, then standing opposite the present Post Office, and had an attendance of 30 to 40 scholars. Barnes had recently graduated from Yale College, and after graduation taught school for a time, and then began the study of medicine in the Yale Medical School, where he received the degree of M.D. in 1818.

George Cotton Patridge, who taught in 1832-33, was a graduate of Amherst College in the class of 1833. He was born in

Hatfield, Massachusetts, August 27, 1813, and was fitted for college at Hopkins Academy, Hadley. He was a member of Andover Seminary one year, 1835-36, and became a tutor in Amherst College in 1837.

Alvan Talcott, who taught in 1833-34, graduated from Yale College with the class of 1824. He was born in Vernon, Connecticut, on August 17, 1804. After leaving college he was engaged for five years in teaching, then studied in Yale Medical School, receiving the degree of M.D. in 1831. He began his professional life in Vernon, but in 1841 removed to Guilford, Connecticut, where he continued in active practice for about forty years. He died there, of old age, on January 17, 1891, in his 87th year.

Francis Lemuel Dickinson, who taught in 1836-37, was born in Portland, then part of Chatham, Connecticut, on January 29, 1817. He graduated from Yale in 1840. On his graduation he settled at first in Hampton, and a year later in Willington, as a physician and removed thence to Rockville in the summer of 1863. He represented Willington in the General Assembly in 1850 and 1857, and Vernon in 1875; and for three years (1877-79) he was a member of the State Senate. His wife was a daughter of Colonel Francis McLean, of Vernon.

Charles Sherman Minor, who taught 1840-41, was born in Washington, Connecticut, January 11, 1817, graduated from Yale in the class of 1841. After graduation he taught at the Academy in Wellsborough, Pennsylvania, two years, then returned to Yale Law School, and was admitted to the Bar in New Haven.

Stephen Fenn, who taught in 1848-49, was born in Plymouth, Connecticut, October 6, 1824, graduated from Yale in the class of 1849. The two years after his graduation were spent in teaching in Connecticut, then he entered on the preparation for the ministry in the Yale Divinity School. Two years later he was ordained in the Congregational Ministry in 1854. He supplied the pulpit in Vernon in 1874 and later in Wapping, where he resided until his death.

William Richards Lyon, who taught in 1855-56, was born in Genoa, New York, May 6, 1834, and in 1858 graduated from Williams College, Massachusetts. His father, Moses Lyon, was a native of Connecticut and the son of Deacon Caleb Lyon, a gunsmith, who made and repaired guns for the American soldiers in the Revolutionary War. After graduation he devoted himself to

the study of law, and in the winter of 1860 he attended the University of Michigan and was admitted to the practice of law in 1863.

We have furnished details of the training of these seven men to show the high standard of the High School of Vernon in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Further evidence of the intelligence of the Vernon citizens of a century ago is reflected in the

## CONSTITUTION OF THE FRANKLIN LYCEUM AT VERNON CENTER

Organized January 25, 1843

(A copy of which may be seen in the State Library at Hartford)

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Article I—This Society shall be known as the Franklin Lyceum.

Article II—The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, and Secretary, the former to be chosen at each meeting of the Society, for the next following discussion.

There were 43 members and E. H. Lathrop was the first president.

Meetings will be weekly on Thursday evenings at 6½ o'clock.

Here are a few of the questions discussed:

Question—Which can be dispensed with from Society the best the Lawyer or the Physician?

Which is the greater evil—Intemperance or Slavery?

Would secret societies receive the approbation of the people of this Country or any other?

Does the addition of Territory to our Union increase our National Strength?

Which has the greater influence upon mankind, the fear of punishment or hope of reward?

Which has the most influence in Society, Males or Females?

Should our State Legislature have the power of granting divorces?

All gentlemen belonging to the Rockville Lyceum will be admitted as honorary members.

[The Rockville Lyceum was known as the Mutual Improvement Society which met in the popular Lecture Room, near the First Congregational Church of Rockville.]

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN ROCKVILLE

The building of the Rock Mill in 1821 brought an increasing number of families into the village and schools became necessary. In the East District the first school was kept in the year 1823 in the parlor of a house built for George Kellogg in the New England yard. A school was started wherever there was available a room in a private house. In 1834 there was a school in the old Martin house which stood where Judge Dwight Loomis lived later on the east corner of Park and Prospect Streets.

Another small school accommodated a number of children over the first store at the corner of School and Park Streets.

On November 17, 1836, a meeting of the legal voters of the Rock School District was held at the office of the Rock Company. Willard Fuller acted as chairman. Three persons were "appointed with the school committee to procure a room for the school." It was voted "that school be kept four months the ensuing season," and that "warnings for school meetings shall be put on the door of the store now occupied by J. F. Judd & Company." Lucius Hinckley was chosen "to procure a subscription for defraying the expenses of room, wood, store, etc."

A building was erected upon the ground now known as the Snipsic Block, corner of Park Place and Park Street. It became known as the lecture room, and in it was rented a room fitted with desks and chairs for school uses. The upper floor was used exclusively for Sunday services, the pulpit being at the north end, and the choir on a raised platform at the other end. In the rear room on the first floor was the schoolroom.

In the year 1837 it was voted "that school be kept three months and longer unless there shall be objection on the part of any members, and each person was assessed in proportion to the number of scholars he sent." It was also decided that "a school commence as soon as a teacher can be procured." Up to the year 1839 there was but one grade.

In 1841 persons living out of the district were permitted to send scholars to the school by paying their portion of the expense.

The lecture room supplied the wants of the people in the East District for several years, though the accommodation was inadequate, and the Sears building on Market Street was fitted up as a public hall and a schoolhouse.

In the Report of the Superintendent of Schools of Connecticut the town of Vernon is listed under Tolland County as having eight school districts and 439 school children in 1845. The report for 1848 states that "some of the teachers have made praiseworthy efforts to do their duty. The schools have been examined according to law, so that the public money has been secured."

In 1849 we read:

> "Since the last year's report of the Vernon School Society, that Society has been divided by the Legislature, and two districts have been set off to form a new society in Rockville, leaving six districts in the old society. In these Districts, efforts have been made by the Visiting Committee for the improvement of the schools, in some with a good degree of success; in others, with very little. In three of the six Districts, outline maps have been introduced; in five small globes, and charts of the elementary sounds of the language."

In that same year, a vote was taken on the question—"whether we will do anything the present season toward building a new schoolhouse. Vote taken by ballot—21 yeas, 2 nays." Phineas Talcott, William T. Cogswell and A. C. Crosby were made a committee, "to see what can be done toward procuring a site for a schoolhouse, and also ascertain the expense and report at a future meeting."

One week later, April 21, 1849, the report of said committee was made and accepted. A committee of five was then chosen to investigate the subject further and report at the next meeting. The committee were Messrs. Cogswell and Talcott of the former board together with J. N. Stickney, S. P. Rose and A. Hammond.

On May 1, 1849, it was "unanimously voted that this meeting is in favor of a lot on the Tavern Company's land," and the committee appointed to select a site was instructed to negotiate for the lot. On May 11, the committee reported that they had contracted for the lot, and A. Hammond, Wm. T. Cogswell and C. Burdick were appointed "to make a plan and estimate of expenses for the building." (The Tavern Company was the Rockville House Company.)

The plan was accepted on May 18, 1849, and it was voted "that the District will proceed to erect a suitable house for the District."

A building committee was appointed—Messrs. Cogswell, Hammond and Stickney. It was voted "that the Building Committee report a plan of a schoolhouse of the size and general character of the one they have seen in Springfield." On May 25, 1849, the report was made and accepted.

The building committee was directed to build in accordance with their report. It was voted "that they be authorized to borrow money to complete the schoolhouse, and give their votes for the same." On November 5, it was voted "to raise the sum of 13 cents on a dollar on the list of 1849 for the purpose of defraying in part the expense of building the schoolhouse now being completed." Incidentally the building committee put a bell on the new house.

Therefore in the year 1849 the first brick schoolhouse was built by William T. Cogswell. In the period of the Gold Rush when the shy young man, James Wilson Marshall, stooped down in the sleepy village of Colonia, and picked up the first gold found in California, the sum of $10,000 was set aside for the purpose, to cover the complete cost of building and furnishing the school. It was erected on School Street, where the East District School playground now faces the Palace Theater.

In this brick building the entire High School system of Vernon was actually born, the first regular school building for both the lower and higher grades. This marked the beginning of our modern system of education. It was occupied on the first day of January, 1850, when citizens listened to an address by Mr. Mason, "for which he received a vote of thanks." The cost of the school was met by a tax on the property of the inhabitants of the East School District.

A set of rules was presented by Rev. Andrew Sharpe, pastor of the Second Congregational Church 1849-1851, having reference to schoolhouse and grounds: Rule 1—That teachers be in their places fifteen minutes before commencing school exercises; Rule 2—As both the teachers and pupils need the blessing of God the morning exercises should be commenced with reading Scriptures and with prayer; Rule 3—The school should be held for the usual time on each secular day of the week except Saturday, when no session shall be holden in the afternoons; Rule 4—pertains to ventilation, temperature and care of the premises; Rule 5—gives direction as to keeping registers; Rule 6—gives teachers authority to make such rules for the discipline, classification, and internal order

FIRST BRICK SCHOOL

of the school as they deem necessary and expedient, subject to approval of the board of visitors; Rule 7—a recess of ten minutes is allowed to all in each session. In the primary department an additional ten minutes is given. Rule 8—provision is made for the removal of refractory scholars; Rule 9—enjoins the pupils to "abstain from indolence, deception, profanity, and all wicked and dishonorable practices."

The erection of this school gave Rockville a high reputation. True, there was much criticism by a few taxpayers. They claimed its size was enormous and never would be required for school purposes. Their fathers lived through their school days occupying seats made of slabs and planks, with legs made of round wood placed through two-inch auger holes in either end of the bench and wedged in on top of the bench to hold them fast, said they, the schoolhouses of those days, with furniture, did not cost more than $200, shovel, tongs, andirons, and all!

In 1850 a tax was laid of 15 cents on the dollar; in 1851, the tax was 13 cents; in 1852, 12 cents; and in 1853, 10 cents.

The Superintendent of Schools of Connecticut, in his report of 1851, has this word of praise for Vernon School Society:

> "There is only one town—the town of Vernon—in which a uniformity of text-books in the schools has been secured. In some other societies, attempts have been made, books have been recommended, and in part introduced. But in no other has the object aimed at by the law been accomplished, by the ruling out of all books except those prescribed by the School Visitors, and the classing together of all scholars of the same attainments, in the same studies."

At the meeting of the School Visitors of Rockville, in October last (1851) the question was asked, "Is there a common school in Tolland County that has a permanent teacher?" But there was no response. "In one district in Rockville, however, the same female teacher has taught the smaller children the greater part of the time for the last four years. The two districts in that society have also hired each a male teacher for a year. Besides these, I am not aware of any movement in our schools towards this kind of permanence. In all the districts in Rockville and Vernon, outline maps, globes, and charts of the sounds are found.

Continuing, the report states: "The highest wages of female teachers that I have been able to report were those of the teachers in the center district in Rockville, two dollars and fifty cents a week and board in one case, and five dollars a week including board in another. The highest salary of a male teacher, so far as I am informed, is that of the teacher of the West District in Rockville, four hundred and fifty dollars a year and board himself. (Of this, however, $250 is paid by private subscription.)"

The first principal in the new brick schoolhouse was a Mr. Mason, of Boston, who remained only one season. He was, however, popular among pupils. He took an active part in all their programs of sports.

After Mr. Mason came Emory F. Strong in 1859, a native of Bolton, Connecticut, a college graduate, and a competent, energetic, popular teacher. He did much to grade up and improve the schools. Subsequent teachers, however, were less successful.

Public sentiment remained antagonistic to higher grade schools. Finally, in a hotly contested District School meeting, a committee was elected who would not employ a college graduate. Fortunately they builded better than they knew, for an exceptionally fine principal, John M. Turner, was engaged, and to him the educational interests of Rockville owe a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Turner was succeeded by Mortimer Warren, a graduate of the New Britain Normal School. He was an able teacher, but a little too progressive and optimistic, and endeavored to stir up the people to build at once a town High School. The effort was premature, for the citizens were not yet ready.

On September 14, 1853, it was voted "that the district committee be authorized to prepare a suitable place for the library." The building was insured for $5,000. In October, the furnaces were removed from the schoolhouse and it was warmed by the use of wood stoves. The district committee was directed not to hire more than two teachers for the upper room unless the number of scholars should exceed ninety. The principal was also forbidden to admit scholars who did not belong in the district.

On March 10, 1856, the district voted "to defer the purchase of a bell till the schoolhouse be paid for." The district committee was directed to retain Mr. Turner as teacher for the year ensuing, and to procure seats for the school room.

In the year 1856 a State law abolished the School Societies and transferred the school jurisdiction from the parish back to the town.

In November, 1857, voted "that all studies except the English branches be excluded from the school." In 1858 voted "that the school be kept five and one-half days each week and three hours each half-day." In 1859 the tuition of any scholar admitted to the High School from out of the district was fixed at thirty cents per week.

At a meeting held on September 21, 1860, various matters were discussed—the sale of a portion of the school lot; the expense of a well, and the widening of the road running past the schoolhouse, and on October 5, William R. Orcutt, committee on fence and well, reported that the fence could be built at $3.75 per rod, and a well would cost anywhere from $50 to $500.

In 1861 it was "resolved that pupils shall not be permitted to congregate in the school yard near the schoolhouse, to make use of the same as a common playground, but shall be restricted to the use of the yard and the schoolhouse park."

In 1862, voted "that the Committee be instructed to substitute larger stove pipes than those now in use." The Committee was instructed "to consult with the Visiting Committee in selecting teachers, and that this be a permanent vote."

At a special meeting November 29, the district committee was

instructed to procure a bell for the schoolhouse at a cost not exceeding $40.00, but on December 30, it was moved by Cyrus White "that a special committee be appointed to exchange the bell belonging to the schoolhouse for a good one, and that the same be paid for from funds of the district." So voted. Also "that a sum not exceeding $150 be appropriated for the purchase of a bell." Voted "that the district committee be instructed to procure kerosene lamps sufficient to light the school room."

In 1864 it was resolved "that hereafter the district committeeman shall receive $50 as compensation for one year's service provided he shall serve a longer period than one year."

In 1865 the plan of building a wing on the west end of the brick schoolhouse was again proposed and on July 14, it was voted "to rent and fix up J. P. Gaynor's barn, for 86 additional scholars." (It has been established that originally Gaynor's barn, which stood on the present site of Krause's Bakery, corner of Gaynor Place and Prospect Street, was a tavern.)

In 1866 the district voted to procure a musical instrument for the upper school at a cost of not more than $250.

The Connecticut Board of Education in its report for 1866 quotes Dr. S. G. Risley, School Visitor of Rockville:

> "The people in both districts of the village have shown a growing interest in the cause of education. School meetings have been attended more and more fully when the prospects and interest of the schools have been freely debated and acted upon. Schools have been visited by parents and friends, but thus pupils and teachers have been cheered and encouraged in their tasks and labors. The subject of a High School is seriously agitated, and when we have hit upon the best plan, and business is a little more prosperous, I think we shall have a High School that will be a credit to the town."

And in 1868 the same State Board of Education quotes J. N. Stickney (Rockville):

> "We have a reading room association, subscription $2½ a year—15 or 20 papers and magazines. We hope this will grow into a library association, which we esteem of great value as an educational force. The young people of such a place as Rockville would be greatly benefitted by having the free use of a well selected library, and we

indulge the hope that the time is not very far distant when such an institution will exist here."

A meeting was held in the Methodist Conference Room on Monday, January 13, 1868, agitating for a High School. The town was widely known for stability, energy, activity and forethought. The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Vernon was urged to call a special town meeting "to see if the town will erect a suitable building for a town High School." The sorry fact was pointed out that there was no public library, no reading room, no lyceum or course of lectures this winter.

In the meantime, the important school of the East District in 1869 was divided into three primary departments: the first, the second and third; and the upper department. Mr. Mortimer A. Warren had just resigned as principal of the upper school, and was succeeded by Mr. John T. Clarke, whose teaching experience had been gained as principal for several years at the Nichols Academy, Dudley, Massachusetts, and in the New Jersey Normal School at Trenton. He kept a tight rein on discipline. The school was composed of "large scholars, far enough advanced to be by them-

EAST SCHOOL

selves," and quite "a number of smaller ones who had been crowded out of the lower rooms for lack of adequate space."

The population of the town was fast increasing. The steady growth in the manufacture and development of new industries called for additional labor, and the consequence was there was a large influx of families. The large brick schoolhouse had proved insufficent.

It is of interest to note that more than thirty years later, 1903 to 1909, J. Henry McCray, a builder and contractor, gave instruction in manual training on the first floor of this old schoolhouse. McCray was the architect and builder of the Prescott Block, the Central Fire Station, St. Joseph's School and Martin's Fish Line Factory.

An enumeration of scholars between the ages of four and sixteen in January, 1870, showed—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rockville East District | 690 | South | 59 |
| Rockville West District | 292 | Northeast | 84 |
| Centre | 50 | Southeast | 26 |
| Southwest | 99 | Northwest | 17 |
| | | | 1317 |

So on March 7, 1870, it was voted to build two new school edifices—one of brick 52 feet by 72 feet, situated near the extremity of the District's grounds on School Street, capacity for 400 pupils in eight rooms, three stories high including basement at a cost not to exceed $13,000; and a primary schoolhouse smaller and less pretentious, on Vernon Avenue, near the house of Andrew Kemp. The contractor was John G. Bailey. This second brick schoolhouse on School Street still serves as a school.

In September, 1870, the East District School opened under a new principal. Mr. Randall Spaulding, a young man of energy and thorough scholarship, came to the head of this school, with the understanding that he was to organize a High School course. When the school opened, the building was too crowded and too small to make a satisfactory grading possible. When the winter term opened, however, the two new buildings which had been completed in the interim improved accommodations.

These two additional schools soon proved insufficent, and for nearly twenty years the question was agitated for erecting a High School by the town, thus relieving the District Schools of the more advanced pupils.

A very important decision was reached at the annual town meeting on October 3, 1870, when it was

> Resolved that hereafter the town shall maintain schools in all the Districts in the town forty weeks in every year; and these weeks shall be divided into three terms—winter, spring, and autumn. The winter term shall commence on the first Monday after Thanksgiving Day and continue fifteen weeks; the Spring term shall commence on the first Monday in April and continue twelve weeks; the Autumn term shall commence on the first Monday in September and continue thirteen weeks.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT SCHOOL, Hale Street

## NORTH EAST DISTRICT SCHOOL

In the year 1870, the North East District School on Hale Street was built. The Tolland County Journal of October 15, 1870, gives the report of the School Visitors. A portion of that report reads:

> "The North East District has done nobly. Though deprived by construction of districts in town of more than one-third of their territory and of their scholars, yet they have within the year erected a fine new school on a pleasant and central site.
>
> "The expense of said building being about $3,000—size on the ground 26 by 50 feet—capable of accommodating 60 scholars or more." Miss Julia O'Keefe, now 83 years of age, taught in the school for many years, and Harry N. Pinney, now 86 years of age, was a pupil in the school.

A reporter in Tolland County Journal in 1873 tells of his visits to the schools:

> Last Friday we made a tour of a number of schools in the East District. It was music day, and the way the quavers and semi-quavers were made to dance and sing, and the rollicking young voices went up and down the musical ladder, was a caution to those having no ears for music.
>
> Mr. Irving Emerson goes through the schools in the East District, taking two schools at a time in one room for drill and exercise. This gives the music teacher personal contact with seventy-five to one hundred scholars at each lesson, supported and aided by the obliging lady teachers, whose schools are, for the time being, united. The musical exercises are engaged in every Friday afternoon. Once a month, the schools are mustered in full force in the High School room for an hour's practice. Today is their gala-day.
>
> A week ago we loitered for an hour or two in the High School, under the care of Mr. Raymond and Miss

> Hutchins. Visitors will here find a variety of engaging exercises, from dry excavations for Greek roots and Latin derivatives to the more elevated recitations in physical geography (especially elevated when the lesson takes in hills and mountains), even to the twinkling stars among the wonderful revelations of astronomical science. The pleasant recitation which we heard in astronomy was upon the Constellations—a beautiful and fascinating branch of this ennobling study. Shakesperian readings is one of the regular afternoon exercises—the passage read in our hearing, from King Lear, evinced pleasing progress in the all-important study-reading.
>
> An addition has recently been made to the philosophical apparatus of this school purchased from funds taken from its own treasury, among other things, an air-pump is noticeable.

On August 2, 1872, this surprising record of overworked students appears:

> "The school year is apparently a fortnight too long for the older scholars who are obliged to study at home. Many were exhausted and left before the close of the term."

It was announced that the branches to be pursued in the High School in the Fall term of 1872 would be: By the senior class—Cicero, Xenophon's Anabasis, Classical Manual, etc.; by the Senior middle class—Cicero's Select Orations, German Selections from standard German authors, Geometry, English composition and Exercises in reading from Shakespeare. There will be a class beginning Latin, and possibly one beginning German. Other classes will recite in Rhetoric, Algebra, Arithmetic, English Grammar and Analysis, Geography, descriptive and physical, Spelling, etc. This High School was called "The Knowledge Box."

In the summer of 1873, the first graduation class consisting of two brothers, Edwin G. and Thomas D. Goodell, went out. What a wonderful beginning! These young men entered Yale College, from which they graduated in 1877 with distinguished honor. Thomas D. was appointed master of the Hartford Grammar School in 1877, being thus also a member of the faculty of Hartford Public High School. He held the position of Hopkins Gram-

mar School master for eleven years, in 1883 becoming a professor in Yale University.

Judge G. W. West tells a good story of that graduation at a Rockville High School Reunion fifteen years later at White's Opera House. Said he:

> "There was a sort of spasm of economy in 1873. I felt that the graduates must be given diplomas. The cost would be about two dollars. I thought I could save a little to the town by having the diplomas engrossed. So I got a young man in Hartford to do it. He executed them in a very artistic manner, but charged me eleven dollars. Of course, I paid it very cheerfully, and never asked for re-embursement from any source. I felt satisfied that I had got my money's worth, if not in diplomas, surely in experience. Thereafter the diplomas were printed."

In the fall of 1874 an entrance examination to the High School was established. This required a knowledge of the usual grammar school studies. At the same time, a course was made out for the High School, a thing which it had been found practically impossible to maintain before the entrance examination. This course was designed to give simply an outline of what was studied there. It has been slightly changed from time to time as experience in its working has seemed to demand. Rather more attention is given to arithmetic and general history than in the first draft. The effect has been to make the work easier and more useful as scholars are taken at an early age, and as the school year is not long, the course was made to occupy five years.

In 1875, January 15, voted "to partition off the upper story of the new school building into four rooms, and to purchase new and larger seats for the High School room, taking those now in use there for the new rooms made as above." Much comment was made at the installation of the desks. These desks had a type of cover that lifted up so that it was perpendicular to the desk proper. The board of education and the teachers were concerned about the shield that such a desk would offer a student, if he should open it up. The learned educators thought that these pieces of furniture would "conceal the class sleepers, idlers and mischief makers." Later, the faculty agreed that the desks were completely satisfactory and the flimsy little protestations passed off like April showers.

In 1877, the school issued a small publication called the

"R.H.S.", which made comment about different phases of school life—Logic, Latin, Greek, etc.—The pupils had to attend school five and one-half days per week, three hours per half day—Teachers strict, study periods unheard of—School Saturdays.

The School Report for 1877 discloses:

> Number of children January 1, 1877—1746, an increase of 103 over the previous year. A new primary department has been opened in the East District. There are now in the Town 26 schools or departments—13 in the East District, six in the West District, 2 in the Southwest, and one in each of the other districts.

In June, 1877, action was taken looking toward a new mode of heating the school rooms: "It is desirable that something be done speedily to avoid the present necessity of breathing air heavily charged with coal gas."

In 1878 the number of school children in the town of Vernon was 1606—870 in the East District, 383 in the West, 110 in the Northwest, 109 in the Northeast, 52 in the South, 40 in the Center, 23 in the Southeast and 19 in the Southwest.

In June of 1878, the Board of Education voted "to reduce the salaries of the lady teachers of the town fifteen per cent, and ordered that not over $1200 be paid to the principal of the High School and $800 to the principal at the West District." The West District at their school meeting voted "to retain their principal, Mr. Haywood, at $1,000, appropriating the necessary $200 from the District treasury." They had been paying $1,200.

The comely and convenient schoolhouse at Talcottville, the noble gift of the Talcott Brothers, was fittingly dedicated on Friday, August 27, 1880. Exercises of an interesting character consisted of remarks by C. D. Talcott, Esq., brief addresses by Secretary Northrop, Mr. Northens of New Britain, Rev. Mr. Day and Mr. Gardner Talcott, of Talcottville, Recitations by Miss Sudella Peck of Bristol, and singing by the Talcottville Glee Club. E. W. Moore, Esq., presided.

The East District of Vernon was still in 1884 charged with maintaining the Rockville High School. The public schools of the district were divided into four departments: The primary department included grades first to fourth inclusive; the intermediate grades five, six and seven; the grammar department grades eight

TALCOTTVILLE SCHOOL

and nine. The high school studies were now covered in four years, and were arranged into a Business and Classical course.

On June 21, 1888, 91 had through the years graduated from the school, and the first reunion was held in White's Opera House. Five years later, September 5, 1893, the second reunion was held in the town hall, with a graduate list of 150. After a lapse of thirteen years an Alumni Association was formed, and the first reunion of the Association was held on June 20, 1906, with 435 graduates.

### 1884 FALL TERM
### CLASSICAL COURSE

First—Arithmetic, Physical Geography, English Grammar, Spelling
Second—Algebra, Physiology, Bookkeeping or Latin lessons
Third—Algebra, Virgil, Anabasis, Greek Prose
Fourth—Cicero, Homer's Iliad, Greek History

### 1884 BUSINESS COURSE
### FALL TERM

First—Arithmetic, Physical geography, English Grammar, Spelling
Second—Algebra, Physiology, Bookkeeping or Latin lessons
Third—Algebra, Natural Philosophy, German or Caesar
Fourth—English History, Astronomy, Political Economy or Virgil

Wm. W. Ames, Yale graduate at the re-union in a drily delicious speech, told of his graduating class in 1883 that 15 gallons of lemonade were prepared and none was left; no one had any but the ten members of the class.

In 1888 the local press made this appeal—"The churches of the village have kindly given the use of their audience rooms to the exercises connected with the High School graduation. It is only asked that the public do not abuse the privilege. It is requested this year that tobacco chewers forego their habit of defiling the carpet with the juice of the weed."

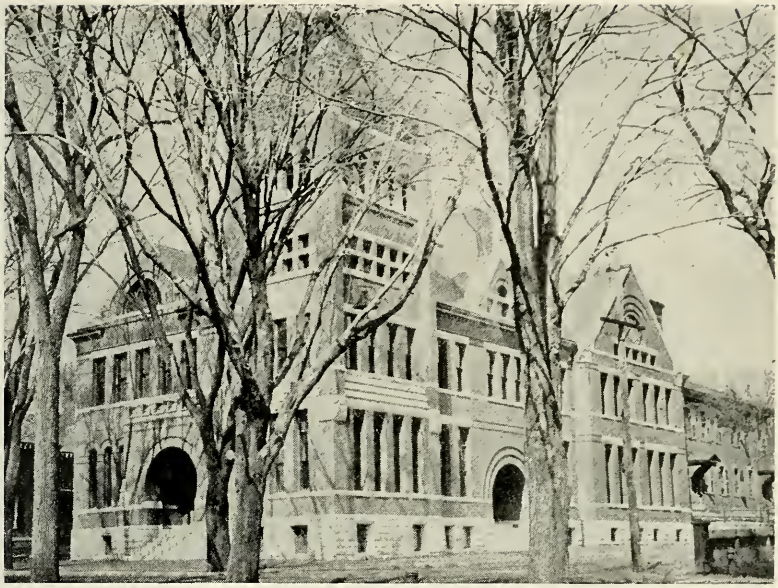
On September 6, 1890, voted to purchase the lot on the corner of School and Park Streets from the Union Ecclesiastical Society at a cost not to exceed $7,000 for a town High School.

At the annual Town Meeting, October 6, 1890, it was voted that a committee of five be appointed to procure plans, specifications and estimate of cost for the erection of a High School building and report at some future meeting. On this committee were appointed E. S. Henry, H. L. James, A. P. Hammond, S. G. Risley and A. R. Goodrich.

On August 15, 1891, a special meeting of the town voted "that the Town within a reasonable time cause to be erected on the site now owned by the town on the corner of Park and School Streets in Rockville a Public High School Building, substantially according to the plans submitted and recommended by the committee, and an appropriation is hereby made of $50,000 to defray the cost of said building, and the selectmen are instructed to provide such sum of fifty thousand dollars subject to the order of the building committee to be hereby appointed." The contract was awarded to Messrs. G. Arnold & Son.

The dedication of the High School, corner of Park and School Streets was held on Tuesday, September 5, 1893. Dr. A. R. Goodrich presided. The audience taxed the splendid assembly room. The High School is a handsome, commodious building of the Renaissance style of architecture, with a large tower on the southwest or street corner and heavy arched entrances on both the Park Street and School Street fronts.

There are two stories above the basement. The long lines of the School Street front are broken by projections and a gable and mullion window. The length of the building is 120 feet, with a width of 57 feet on Park Street front and 61 feet on the east half.



OLD HIGH SCHOOL

The ground floor, west front, has a hallway flanked on the south by a classroom 23 x 23; on the left by an office 10 x 12, and capacious cloak rooms, one for each sex. The main schoolroom in the rear is 51 x 58½ feet with a capacity for 200 pupils. Both hallways have staircases leading to the second floor.

On the second floor are two classrooms 25 x 25 and one in front 26½ x 31. There is also a library room 23 x 33; a teacher's room 15 feet square; a physical laboratory 25 x 25 and a chemical laboratory of the same size. The physical laboratory was equipped with an abundance of glass cases and drawers. The finest slate blackboards were a joy to the instructors and a boon to the pupils.

THE DEDICATORY EXERCISES

Solo, selected.....Miss Grace A. Smith
Historical Address.....Dr. A. R. Goodrich
Solo, selected.....Miss Delia M. Presbrey
Address—"Struggles and Growth of the Rockville High School"
Hon. E. S. Henry
Reading by Professor Hibbard, New Britain
Dedicatory Prayer.....Rev. James Dingwell
Solo, selected.....Miss Bessie C. Durfee
Brief addresses by members of the School Board and other citizens
Music—Singing of "America".....By Assembly
Benediction.....Rev. E. W. Potter
Opening of Building to the Public.

On October 19, 1893, the Evening School was conducted under difficulty because 250 had applied for instruction when at the utmost one hundred had been provided for. A month later it was reported "there are now 375 pupils in the night school." On October 1, 1894, $1,000 was voted to establish and maintain an Evening School.

An editorial of Thursday, December 6, 1894, stated:

> "It is time to call a halt on increasing elaborateness and expense attending the "receptions" and other ceremonies of graduating classes in the High School. Class receptions, class pins, class pictures, class rings, reception and graduation gowns, and other things come thick and fast. Let it be stopped! They have gone far enough!"

Principal Isaac M. Agard (1888-1906) had a new feature for the report cards in 1896. That year was a blank on one side for the parents to fill out, stating just what time was spent by the student in school work at home each month.

In 1896 warm debates were held on weighty subjects: that women should be allowed the right of suffrage; that it would be beneficial to the property owners of Rockville to repeal the city charter.

On Thursday, June 4, 1898, a special town meeting acted on the proposition to increase the Board of School Visitors for the town of Vernon from six to nine. A large meeting in the town hall voted for increase 223, against 154, blanks 3, total vote 380.

## EDUCATION

During the period of 1890 to 1896 Professor J. P. Regan, a local resident, who lived with his parents on Windsor Avenue, had just prior to that period graduated from the famous Penmanship College operated by Zaner & Bloser, at Columbus, Ohio, recognized as two of America's finest penmen.

Professor Regan was engaged to teach in the local schools, and in addition to a very small fee paid by the town for his services, he was allowed the use of a school room in the East District to teach evening classes at $1.50 for ten lessons.

John P. Regan was a real artist and in addition to teaching in the schools, and private lessons, he executed in masterly style Resolutions, Testimonials and high class pen work of varied forms. He is still affectionately remembered by a great many townspeople and former students who studied with him.

In 1894 Professor Regan was signally honored by the management of the Chicago World's Fair, being selected from among hundreds of the country's finest penmen to exhibit his work at the fair. His exhibit included specimens of the penmanship of a fifteen year old pupil, John N. Keeney. The framed exhibit was later displayed in the window of the Ellen Wilson Drug Store in Park Place, in the Citizen's Block, now the Schaeffer Market.

## HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

First Meeting High School Committee, Rockville, June 20, 1893.

The selectmen A. P. Dickinson and A. J. Cunningham appeared in person and informed the Board of Education that they had appointed the following named persons as a High School Committee for one year or until the Town voted for a High School Committee:

A. R. Goodrich, James Dingwell, A. M. Gibson, Wm. V. McNerney and W. B. Foster were named as that committee. Dr. A. R. Goodrich was a prominent physician, and a member of the School Visiting Committee for many years.

The above named persons met in the town clerk's office on the above named date and the following officers were elected:

A. R. Goodrich, President
W. B. Foster, Secretary
A. M. Gibson, Auditor

Second Meeting of the High School Committee took place in the Town Clerk's office June 27, 1893. It was voted to hire the following named persons as teachers for the coming year on the following terms:

| | |
|---|---|
| Principal I. M. Agard | $1500.00 |
| Miss A. Henry | 630.00 |
| Miss F. Kingsbury | 450.00 |
| Miss Sadie Lake | 450.00 |

Voted that James Dingwell, W. B. Foster and I. M. Agard be a committee to purchase supplies, books, maps, etc., for the High School. Voted that 38 weeks be a school year. Voted that W. B.

Foster purchase the coal and hire a janitor, the salary of janitor not to exceed $500 per year. Voted that the tuition for attendance of out of town scholars shall be

| | |
|---|---|
| Fall Term | $10 |
| Winter Term | 8 |
| Spring Term | 7 |

At the annual Town Meeting October 2, 1893, the following were elected on the High School Committee in accordance with Senate Bill No. 20: E. Stevens Henry, Elbridge K. Leonard, William Maxwell, Frederick W. Walsh, and Frederick Hartenstein.

In 1894 the subject of vaccination was agitating the minds of people, and many physicians and more laymen resisted the enforced vaccination of their children because of the danger of introducing into their systems unsafe virus.

The town of Vernon in 1899 voted to place its schools under town management, and in less than a month demonstrated the instability of human opinion by rescinding its previous action. Under consolidation all the schools of the town would be under one general committee.

The Board of Education in 1902 voted unanimously "to allow no children to attend the public school of Vernon after September 8 without being vaccinated or without having a certificate from a reputable physician of the Town of Vernon, certifying that the child is not a fit subject for vaccination." This resolution met with lively opposition from anti-vaccinationists, and in the last week of February, 1904, they opened a private school in the Wesleyan Hall in the rear of the Methodist Church. It started with 25 pupils and increased to 75.

On October 6, 1902, the following definite step was taken:

> "Resolved that the Board of Education is hereby requested neither to abridge nor restrict the right of any pupil to attend any public school under its jurisdiction by reason of said pupil not being vaccinated or by the failure of any such pupil to comply with any order or regulation from any source relating to vaccination."

At a Reunion of the High School in 1911, Fred H. Holt presided and reminiscently remarked: "Some of us would prefer to meet tonight in yonder old High School room (1849) with its much talked of historic ceiling, its small class rooms, and the very

platform on which we were tortured on many a Wednesday afternoon for the cause of rhetoric."

November 12, 1914, The Board of School Visitors at their November meeting reported "1820 children of school age, and 365 children attend no school."

A terrible epidemic of Spanish influenza swept through 43 States of the Union in 1918. The Rockville High School became a temporary hospital. There were 1200 to 1500 cases in the city of influenza and pneumonia and 35,000 cases in the State of Connecticut. A large tent from the State Armory was set up on the Green in Talcott Park, then moved to the lawn of Dr. T. F. Rockwell, who rendered yeoman service. 125 patients were treated, and 23 died.

In October, 1918, the Rockville High School building was taken over by the citizens and transformed into an emergency hospital for the care of the hundreds of people ill with Spanish influenza.

At a special town meeting November 4, 1918,

> "Resolved that $2500 be appropriated by the Town for the purpose of defraying in part expenses of emergency hospital during the prevalence of the influenza epidemic through the Red Cross."

Rockville High School was the recipient of a valuable Indian Totem Pole on Wednesday, November 24, 1920, given by the Maxwell family, in memory of Robert Maxwell, of the Class of 1883. The gift, five feet in height, is an extremely rare specimen. Incidentally, the significance of Indian totem poles is generally overlooked. They record the family and tribal history, describe important events and monuments to the fame or ill-repute of outstanding individuals. They are more than objects of religious worship.

There were appropriate exercises in the afternoon of Friday, April 21, 1939, when several trees were dedicated on the East School grounds. A tree of special interest was a Rock Maple given by the East School and planted in memory of the former Superintendent of Schools, Herbert O. Clough. Mr. Philip M. Howe paid tribute. Other trees were two maples given by the Veterans of Foreign Wars; one a Schwedler maple given by Mrs. D. L. Hondlow in memory of her son, Elbridge K. Leonard, and

the other a Rock maple given by Mrs. Julius Beer, in memory of her husband; also a Schwedler maple was given by Miss Bessie Durfee in memory of her sister, Miss Della B. Durfee, a teacher for many years in the East School District.

The old Grammar School building at East District, erected in 1849, was removed by the vote of citizens in 1937.

At a special Town meeting Tuesday, August 18, 1942:

> "Be it resolved by the voters of the Town of Vernon in Town meeting assembled that the town accept with thanks the offer of Talcott Brothers to give the school buildings and grounds situated in Talcottville, which have hitherto been rented by the town, to the town to own and operate as a school building on this condition—that if at any time the town should permanently cease to use this property for school purposes, it shall revert to Talcott Brothers."

On May 24, 1945, the town decided to convey by deed to the American Legion, Stanley Dobosz Post No. 14, Inc., a certain piece or parcel of land situated on the easterly side of East Street, approximately 350 feet front and 500 feet deep, to erect a club house, grounds for athletics, recreational and parking purposes.

At the November monthly meeting, 1945, the Board of Education voted "to turn back the Dobsonville School building to the Selectmen; the building had outlived its usefulness as a school."

On December 18, 1945, The Vernon Fire Company, No. 2, was granted the use of the Dobsonville School House for recreational purposes.

## A THOUGHTFUL GIFT

Miss Bessie Durfee, a beloved teacher in the Town of Vernon for nearly fifty years, left Trust Fund of approximately $25,000:

> . . . to be used for relief for the grade school children of the town of Vernon with priority being given to treatment and hospitalization for eye, nose and throat troubles; to be administered by a Committee appointed by the Business Committee of Union Congregational Church.

During many years of teaching, Miss Durfee saw boys and girls held back by these diseases because parents did not have means to give them proper treatment. This fund is available to every race, creed and nationality.

## GEORGE SYKES MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL

On November 11, 1903, George Sykes made a bequest providing a fund for the foundation of the George Sykes Manual Training School:

> "I give and bequeath to Francis T. Maxwell, William H. Prescott, Charles Phelps, David A. Sykes, and J. Henry McCray, all of the city of Rockville, County of Tolland, State of Connecticut, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars in perpetual trust, to them and their successors in office, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining at said city of Rockville, a Manual Training School for the instruction of boys in manual labor, including drafting, carpentering, plumbing, all kinds of electrical work, physical culture and all other branches of manual training commonly taught in such schools."

The thought of such a Manual Training School was inspired in the mind of George Sykes, when he was a young and struggling student. As a boy in a little mill in Vermont, he worked long hours

GEORGE SYKES MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL

for small wages. During what leisure time he had, he was as fond of baseball and other pastimes as any other boy, but he had an ambition to "get on," to become an overseer, a designer, and maybe a manufacturer. So he used to walk (he could not afford even the chief livery service of those days) to the next town where he knew a mill man, "Joe Wade," who gave him lessons in drafting and analyzing the different makes of cloth. At home, after the long mill hours, he studied by the light of the kerosene lamp, indeed, his close application was such that his eyesight became temporarily impaired, but he had already attained sufficient skill to become an overseer of weaving at the age of 21, and soon thereafter he became a superintendent.

He was determined to try to lighten the handicaps of others, and provide a school where boys might learn a trade, whether textile or mechanical, and in his will he left the sum of $100,000 in trust to serve as a foundation for a school which should give to the youth of Vernon and Rockville benefits he had sought in his youth and obtained against great odds.

In 1907, Mrs. Charles Phelps, daughter of George Sykes, tendered to the Trustees of the Sykes Manual Training School deeds of the Skinner and Bill property for a site for the erection of a manual training school. No better site could be obtained. The Skinner property had a frontage of 99 feet and a depth of 165 feet and the Bill property was about 60 x 100 feet. Frank Skinner was the town clerk and Benezet H. Bill was a lawyer.

Under the care of the trustees, and added to by generous gifts from the Sykes family and bequests from the Maxwell and Prescott estates, in the 20 years since the establishment of the fund, it has increased largely.

In the fall of 1923, the School Committee of the Town of Vernon, moved by the pressure of increased numbers in the High School, approached the trustees with a proposition that if they would erect a building which would house the proposed Manual Training School contemplated by Mr. Sykes, and the Rockville High School, the committee would endeavor to persuade the town to take over from the trustees the task of maintaining such branches in the combined school as would satisfy the intention of Mr. Sykes in projecting the school.

After a series of conferences between the trustees and the school committee an agreement was entered into between them

which was ratified by the town at a special meeting on November 19, 1923. By this agreement the trustees agreed to erect a school building at a cost of $250,000 which sum was considerably increased later to house the combined school, while the Town of Vernon agreed to equip and maintain the school. Under the agreement the Trustees gave the free use of the building for a term of 25 years, which time may be extended if the combination works well.

The trustees agreed further to keep the building in repair, and to give the running of the Manual Training branches into the hands of the school committee, reserving the right to intercede if the interest of the Will was at any time in danger of not being carried out.

The total cost of the building to the trustees was in the neighborhood of $300,000. The building and equipment provide a gymnasium, machine shop, woodworking shop, forge shop, an auditorium to accommodate 816 persons, a library, science rooms, domestic science rooms, offices, and fifteen regular class rooms.

On November 29, 1923, ground was broken for the new school, and cornerstone exercises were held the following year on Saturday, April 24.

PROGRAM

Music—Governor's Foot Guard Band
Foreword and reading of the Fourth Paragrph of the
Codicil of the Will of the late George Sykes
Charles Phelps, President
Vocal Music—"We Cheer and March Away".....Bellini
School Chorus
Remarks, F. S. Nettleton, Chairman Town School Committee
Reading List of Contents of Box
Francis T. Maxwell, Vice-President
Vocal Music—"March Song of Stark's Men".....Whelply
School Chorus
Laying of the Cornerstone.....David A. Sykes, Secretary
Music—Governor's Foot Guard Band
Address—.....Rev. Percy E. Thomas, Lowell, Massachusetts
Singing—"America"—Accompanied by Band
Concert by the Band.

The George Sykes Manual Training and High School was dedicated on Thursday evening, February 5, 1925, and in spite of extravagant weather and a severe blizzard that was sweeping the city, the auditorium of the building was filled almost to its capacity.

Exercises were held in the large and spacious auditorium.

PROGRAM

Chairman.....John E. Fahey, Judge of Probate 1905-1928
Music .....Hatch's Orchestra
Prayer.....Rev. F. P. Bacheler
Song—"Triumphal March" from "Aida".....High School Chorus
Introductory Remarks by the Chairman
Presentations:
To the Trustees—Willard F. Peck, The H. Wales Lines Company
To the School Committee—Hon. Charles Phelps
President of the Trustees
Acceptance—.....Sherwood C. Cummings, Chairman of School Committee
Selection .....Orchestra
Remarks.....Ex-Governor Everett J. Lake
Song—"Carmena" (Wilson).....High School Chorus
Address—Dr. Albert B. Meredith, State Commissioner of Education
Singing—"America" .....Audience

A bronze tablet 3 x 2 ft. given by the Trustees of the George Sykes Memorial School is placed at the entrance in the school with the following inscription:

GEORGE SYKES
MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL

Dedicated 1925

Founded by George Sykes with the
Cooperation of his family

Mrs. Sarah A. Sykes
Mrs. Lizzie Sykes Bond
Mrs. Elsie Sykes Phelps
Mrs. Eva Sykes Lake

Additional Bequests and Gifts made by

Robert Maxwell
Mrs. Celia E. Prescott
Mrs. Harriet K. Maxwell

Original Trustees

Charles Phelps, Francis T. Maxwell,
William H. Prescott, David A. Sykes,
J. Henry McCray

Trustees Elected

George E. Sykes, 1909
Howard I. Wood, 1937

When the next historian writes the chronicle of the twentieth century in Rockville, and records the achievements of her sons and daughters, he will, no doubt begin with names like these: Benjamin C. Nangle, Anna R. Maskel, and the Pearl Brothers, George and Sam. For the early years of these graduates of Rockville High School show promise of greater fame.

Benjamin C. Nangle was graduated from Rockville High School in 1917 and immediately entered Yale University, from which school he graduated in 1921. During the college year 1821-22 he was an instructor in English at Yale-in-China. He returned to New Haven and entered the graduate school, receiving his Ph.D., in 1927. He was an assistant in the English Department until 1924 when he received an appointment as an instructor. Four years later he was promoted to assistant professor and to associate professor in 1937. In addition, he has taught English at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven.

Anna R. Maskel, who characterizes her poems as "small firefly flashes in the night," was graduated from Rockville High School in 1924. New York University granted her the B.S. degree in 1932, and Columbia followed with its M.A., in 1943. In the summers of 1945 and 1946, she took Advanced study at Yale. In 1935 "Wild Stubble," and in 1937 "From Fallow," were published by Bruce Humphries, Inc., of Boston. These books of poetry have been supplemented by articles printed in "Progressive Education," "Connecticut Teacher," "Education Digest," "Connecticut University News," and the Hartford Times. She is now serving as Assistant Professor of Education at New Haven Teachers College.

George and Samuel W. Pearl were both graduates of Rockville High School in the classes of 1928 and 1929 respectively. Sam was the Salutatorian of the class of 1929, and a graduate with B.A. degree from Yale College in 1935, and from the Yale Law School in 1938. Succeeding to the business of their father, Benjamin Pearl, who started operations in 1931, the two high school graduates have built up a large gasoline and oil business with capacities of 18 service stations and more than 1,000 customers, a total annual gallonage of 5,000,000 of oil, and a large fleet of tank and delivery trucks. In addition to the highly successful operations of the Pearl Oil Company, the brothers have acquired rentable real estate to enhance their increasing commercial activities. Their success in a relatively few years is an inspiring example to succeeding graduates.

Since 1829, when "a school of a higher order" was established in Vernon, profound changes have occurred in American education and have been reflected in the local schools. During that century and a quarter, secondary education has become the rule for the majority of our youth, rather than the exception for the select few. The disrepute into which child labor has justly fallen and the requirements of a more complex social and economic structure have combined to make more extensive schooling desirable and necessary.

With greater numbers has come wider divergence in attainment and purpose. Thus, to the traditional curriculum, whose chief aim was to prepare for college, have been added courses leading more directly to the vocations, such as industrial arts, commercial training, home economics and agriculture, so that students for whom high school is the final phase of formal education may be ready to compete in a highly technical society.

With the flood of new students of varied ambitions, and a multiplicity of courses from which to choose, there arose the need for expert educational and vocational advice. New occupations, created and multiplied by the advancement of technical and scientific achievement, demanded fresh patterns of preparation. To help the students plan wisely for the life work which best suited them, the "guidance" movement was conceived. When the need for such specialized teachers became apparent in Vernon, staff members were assigned to this duty. The attention thus given to the individual student and the problems peculiar to him have strengthened the fabric of education in the school system of the town.

Technological progress has increased the leisure time of every citizen since the days of the first high school. The schools have kept pace with this development by attempting to train the student to use this time to advantage. Instruction and practice in sports and the arts have been introduced. Basketball, baseball, soccer, in the field of sports; choral singing, band, drawing, handcrafts, dramatics and journalism in the arts, afford the student an opportunity to acquire skill in activities from which he may derive personal satisfaction throughout his life.

Among such activities may be mentioned the production of the "Banner," originally a literary magazine and yearbook, now solely a yearbook of the graduating class; also the "Bannerette," a new publication formerly known as the "Cat-o'-Nine Tales."

In addition, frequent social events aid the students in acquiring facility in making plans and arrangements, and poise in participation in such situations.

Assembly programs bring to the high school motion pictures, speakers, and other types of presentations which widen the student's horizons by bringing him information and ideas which give significance to his own experience or which may be outside the scope of his present activities.

The high school of today is a far cry from the "school of a higher order" of 1829. In every stage of its development it has changed because the society of which it is a part has changed. At every point its function has been to educate students to become effective, useful and personally satisfied citizens of their town and country.

## NUMBER OF ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### 1873-1950

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1873— 2 | 1893—13 | 1912—33 | 1931— 90 |
| 1874— 0 | 1894—14 | 1913—30 | 1932—110 |
| 1875— 5 | 1895—12 | 1914—32 | 1933— 82 |
| 1876— 0 | 1896—20 | 1915—38 | 1934—115 |
| 1877— 0 | 1897—17 | 1916—29 | 1935—106 |
| 1878— 7 | 1898—19 | 1917—48 | 1936—127 |
| 1879— 1 | 1899—22 | 1918—39 | 1937—115 |
| 1880— 5 | 1900—25 | 1919—36 | 1938— 97 |
| 1881— 7 | 1901—40 | 1920—46 | 1939—134 |
| 1882— 4 | 1902—34 | 1921—26 | 1940—126 |
| 1883—10 | 1903—34 | 1922—40 | 1941—136 |
| 1884— 9 | 1904—19 | 1923—40 | 1942—110 |
| 1885— 9 | 1905—29 | 1924—55 | 1943—145 |
| 1886— 6 | 1906—17 | 1925—47 | 1944—110 |
| 1887— 7 | 1907—20 | 1926—45 | 1945—107 |
| 1888— 9 | 1908—20 | 1927—63 | 1946—110 |
| 1889—15 | 1909—19 | 1928—69 | 1947—107 |
| 1890— 7 | 1910—30 | 1929—57 | 1948—115 |
| 1891—18 | 1911—24 | 1930—64 | 1949—117 |
| 1892—18 | | | 1950—114 |

## PRINCIPALS OF ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Randall Spaulding .....1870-72
Charles E. Raymond.....1873-74
Wayland Spaulding .....1874-78
Douglas P. Birnie.....1878-80
J. Edward Banta.....1880-88
Issac M. Agard.....1888-1906
Harry B. Marsh.....1906-1912
Philip M. Howe.....1912-1945
Allen L. Dresser.....1945-

## SUPERINTENDENTS

James Muir .....1915
Herbert O. Clough.....1918
Philip M. Howe.....1937
Arthur E. Chatterton.....1945

WEST DISTRICT SCHOOL

## THE WEST DISTRICT SCHOOL

As early as 1821, school was kept in the West District, then known as the Grant District. The pioneer Grant family and a few other inhabitants cut down trees out of the forest, and by the stream built two small mills, where later stood the Saxony mill, and erected a small schoolhouse for their children.

At the dedication of the High School in 1893, Dr. A. R. Goodrich, who was State Comptroller from 1873-1874, and State Treasurer from 1883 to 1885, reminded his audience—

> "My acquaintance with Rockville extends back to the time when less than 200 people were residents, and all the beautiful hillsides were covered with the primeval forests. There were at that time no schoolhouses, post office, hotels, markets or saloons. Previous to 1836, there was no schoolhouse in the East School District. Children attended school in the Grant District, now called the West School District. This street was an old settlement before Rockville proper was thought of."

The schoolhouse was a story and a half building. In the deep snow there were no paths, and inside the room in zero weather there was no steam heat. It was a wood burner for a stove. The scholars were glad to hug that to keep warm. The ink in the bottles froze and the bottles burst. The boys coming into the schoolhouse with their cowhide boots on would make as much noise as a horse.

For a quarter of a century the school served a good purpose, then was converted into a soap factory, and later became a common barn. In November of 1840, there were enrolled 43 pupils, and the district was called the North District until 1849.

## THE SECOND WEST DISTRICT SCHOOL

On November 15, 1848, this district refused to consolidate with the Rock District in an effort to build a High School house, and on November 27 of that year voted to build a schoolhouse on what is now Maple Street, to cost not more than $1,000. A committee to select a site was appointed, consisting of Chauncey Winchell, Palmer Holman and Chauncey Hibbard. At a later meeting that same committee was instructed to deal with Francis Grant

in the matter, and soon after Messrs. H. W. Miner, A. Bailey, George Lee, Christopher Burdick, P. Holman, Sumner Tracey and A. Talcott were appointed "to drive stakes where to erect the schoolhouse." School in the new house was opened on December 1, 1849.

The schools increased rapidly, and a growing population demanded enlarged facilities and more buildings. The annual town meeting in 1893 voted to appoint a committee to look into the needs of the District, consisting of S. T. Noble, A. Park Hammond, Henry Burke, Charles Metcalf, and F. R. Rau. They reported at a special meeting the estimated cost of a building 30 x 60 feet, two stories high, and were promptly instructed to go ahead, procure bids, and erect the building.

The contract was awarded to G. Arnold & Son for $3,500, and the building was erected in the old coloniel style, two and a half stories high, with nine schoolrooms, a splendid hall, and two additional rooms to be finished when needed.

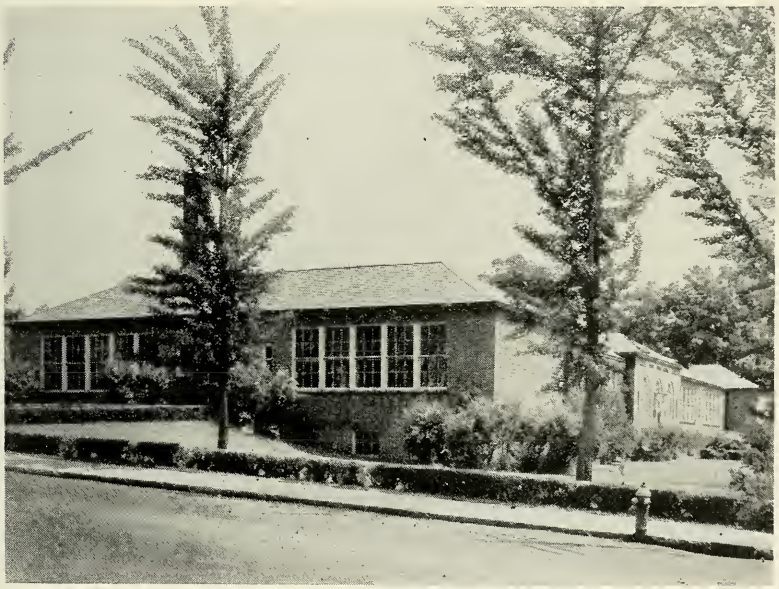
The handsome building was dedicated in March, 1894, and the attendance was so large the dedication exercises had to be planned in two entertainments, first by the more advanced pupils and a little later by the primary classes. Even the two entertainments were not sufficient, and a consolidated third was presented. These exercises occurred in the hall of the new building and proved the advantages of such a hall for public gatherings at the west end.

The ninth school was opened at the beginning of 1894, and such was the increase of pupils that a tenth school had to be opened on May 1 of the same year.

## THE MAPLE STREET NEW SCHOOL

The West District School building in 1922 was generally regarded as unsanitary, old-fashioned, antique and impractical, and a dangerous fire-trap. The matter was brought to the attention of the town by Francis S. Nettleton, chairman of the town school committee, Francis T. Maxwell, and superintendent of schools, H. O. Clough, at a meeting in the Town Hall, in the afternoon of Monday, October 2, 1922. It was resloved—

> "That the town of Vernon shall build and equip a building for public school purposes on the land owned by said Town at the corner of Union and Maple Streets in said town, said building and equipment not to exceed one hundred eighteen thousand dollars in cost; and that the Town School Committee as now or hereafter constituted be and said committee hereby is authorized and empowered to be and act as agents of said town in building and equipment of said school."



NEW MAPLE STREET SCHOOL

The new building was substantial and practical. The work was started on March 23, 1923, with the H. Wales Lines Company of Meriden as builders, and Walter B. Chambers, of New York, as architect. The building is set 60 feet back from Union and Maple Streets at the junction, with entrances from each street reached by concrete sidewalks. Over the west entrance is the simple name, "Maple Street School." At the Maple Street entrance is a large vestibule, and to the right of this is the principal's room and committee rooms. Notable features of the building are large window spaces, plenty of light, wide and ample corridor which runs the whole length of the building, sanitary and adjustable desks, and plenty of coat and closet room.

There was no formal dedication of the building. It opened after the Christmas recess on Wednesday, January 2, 1924, and the only public announcement made was the report of Principal McClellan that the teachers had moved into the new building. Several teachers have corroborated this. They helped carry equipment from the old building to the new school.

The old school had really become a museum of antiquities. In one room was an old style square piano in enormous contrast with the small instrument put in the kindergarten room of the new building, an old organ and the original desk used for more than thirty years by Principal Hayward. Another room in the old building was the opportunity room, instituted by Maple Street School for the amusement and manual training of sub-normal children. Here was the handloom for weaving rugs and the material for chair-caning and brush-making. James F. Hendrick, father of excellent teachers, Miss Anna B. and Mary Helen, started the course of manual training in the school about the year 1903.

## ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS

E. Stevens Henry Award

Francis S. Nettleton Award

Carl Abrahamson Award

Bessie Durfee Award

Florence Whitlock Award

Philip M. Howe Award

Vitolt Bagdanovich Award

Rockville High School Alumni Association Award

Rockville Rotary Club

Rockville Exchange Club

Rockville Public Health Nursing Association

Girls Club

Miss Florence R. Whitlock, a teacher in this town for over thirty years, devoted practically all her life to the welfare of boys and girls. She bequeathed in her will—
"One-tenth (1/10th) to the Town of Vernon, the same to be deposited in one of the savings banks of Rockville and the income thereof to be used for a first and second prize to the two scholars whose standing in the high school has been the highest for the four years."

Class of 1953—Awarded to Alesandra Schmidt and June Tyler

Class of 1954—Awarded to Winnifred Wohllebe and Dorothy Silverherz

"One-tenth (1/10th) to the Town of Vernon, the same to be deposited in one of the savings banks of Rockville and the income thereof to be used for prizes in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades of the East school, for excellence in school work, the details in relation to the awarding of such prizes to be left to the superintendent, principal and teachers of these grades."

The first of the Florence R. Whitlock Memorial Awards to the East School were presented by Principal Renwick J. Lewis at Graduation, June 22, 1954:

Grade Eight—Barbara Kluczewski and Guy Crossman

Grade Seven—Irene Lee and Paul Nagy

Grade Six—Carolyn Nagy and Harwood West

# DEDICATION

## THE VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Vernon, Connecticut

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1952 — 3:00 P.M.

PROGRAM

Mr. Franklin G. Welles, Presiding
Chairman—Vernon School Building Committee

| | |
|---|---|
| INVOCATION | Rev. George S. Brookes<br>Pastor Emeritus, Union Church |
| WELCOME | Mr. Herbert I. Pagani<br>First Selectman, Town of Vernon<br>Mr. John G. Talcott, Jr.<br>Chairman, Vernon Board of Education |
| MUSIC | "Steal Away"—Negro Spiritual<br>"Little Brown Church in the Vale"<br>Pupils from the Seventh and Eighth Grades of the Vernon Elementary School |
| PRAYER | Rev. Brendan Griswold<br>Grace Episcopal Church, Newington, formerly Pastor of Vernon Center Congregational Church |
| INTRODUCTION OF DR. ENGLEMAN | Mrs. Alice H. Hammar<br>Secretary, Vernon School Building Committee |
| ADDRESS, "THE CHALLENGE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION" | Dr. Finis E. Engleman, Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut |
| PIANO SOLO | Louis Meagley, Vernon Elementary School, Eighth Grade |
| PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL BY BUILDING COMMITTEE TO BOARD OF EDUCATION | Mr. Franklin G. Welles to Mr. John R. Gottier, Chairman of the Building Committee of the Board of Education |
| BENEDICTION | Rev. Forrest Musser<br>Union Congregational Church |

TOUR OF BUILDING—after Ceremonies

The Vernon Elementary School was started October 1, 1950, and occupied January 3, 1952. There are 13 classrooms; a cafeteria; an auditorium; boys' and girls' shower and locker rooms; health clinic; library, and teachers' rooms. There are 11½ acres in the school site.

The total cost of the building for construction, equipment, grading, and land is $394,000. There are 375 children enrolled at present. Every available classroom is utilized. About 300 children enjoy a hot lunch every day in the cafeteria.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## INTERESTING RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF VERNON TOWN COMMITTEE

The chairman of the committee on July 7, 1915, was Francis S. Nettleton; Secretary, S. Tracy Noble; Treasurer, George P. Wendheiser.

August 4, 1915—Salaries for the year: Principal Philip M. Howe $1900; East District (highest) $18.00 a week, lowest $10.00 week; West District (highest) $16.00 a week, lowest $9.00 a week. Voted by the committee that salaries of grammar school were not to exceed $900 per year after the present year of 1915.

September 1, 1915—Voted to engage James E. Muir, of Orange, New Jersey, as supervisor of schools of the town of Vernon for one year at a salary of $2,200 per year.
Eugene Stulett's bid for transporting children of South East District and New England Hill for entire school year at $800.
The tuition of children outside the town of Vernon $3.00 per term, payable in advance.

October 6, 1915—Voted teachers be allowed full pay for absence during illness, not to exceed ten days during the year, upon presentation of physician's certificate of such illness. The press were allowed to attend meetings.

November 3, 1915—Messrs. Talcott Brothers, of Talcottville, presented an offer to lease the present school building in that place to the town for the sum of one hundred dollars (100.00) per year, owners to pay for janitor service, insurance, and keep building and grounds in present good condition. Accepted.

April 5, 1916—Letter from Sabra Chapter D.A.R. offering assistance financially and with a committee to perfect a course in domestic science.
Voted to engage hereafter as new teachers only normal school or college graduates.

June 6, 1917—Volumes of specimens of children's penmanship which was at the Centennial in 1876 be donated to the Rockville Public Library.

July 19, 1917—Voted that the course in Domestic Science be introduced next year, teacher for same to be engaged.
New England Hill school property be disposed of.

September 5, 1917—Voted that $500 be a minimum salary for any teacher next year.

October 5, 1917—That Evening School be held four nights a week until 75 nights had been completed.

April 3, 1918—That every teacher be given $30 increase in salary for the present spring term, with the exception of the writing teacher, who shall receive $15 in addition to present salary.

May 1, 1918—James E. Muir resigned, and Herbert O. Clough was engaged as Superintendent of Schools, with a salary of $2750 for one year.

Tuition for out-of-town pupils in the High School be increased to $65 a year; grades $20 a year.

June 5, 1918—To adopt the proposed cooperative High School and Trade School course—the town to pay half of the pupils' car fare.

July 23, 1918—That one-half of the car fare from Rockville to Manchester and return be paid from September 1 to July 1 to all pupils taking the High School Trade School Cooperative Course, up to $40. The State refunds one-half.

June 4, 1919—Voted to appropriate a sum not exceeding $1,000 for replenishing and repairing in accordance with plans of the High School laboratory.

October 7, 1919—Mr. Gibson T. Williams, of Vernon Center, has offered to paint the school building in his district at his own expense.

Voted that adjustable seats, 24 in number, be purchased for the upper grade at Vernon Depot.

November 3, 1920—Plan of serving hot soup or chocolate at the noon hour to scholars in the grades who are obliged to bring their lunch, 50 taking advantage from the East and 20 from the West.

May 4, 1921—Voted schools continue to observe standard time, but open and close one hour earlier.

May 21, 1921—The matter of making physical training a definite part of the school curriculum was discussed. Unanimous in favor, but under present conditions hiring of special teacher deferred.

September 13, 1921—Voted that registration for Evening School be free and one dollar be given for perfect attendance. There are 131 pupils in High School from out of town and 147 from town.

December 7, 1921—A committee of three, consisting of Chairman Nettleton, Mr. Bissell and Mr. Talcott was appointed to confer with the trustees of the Sykes Manual Training School if so desired by said trustees.

January 4, 1922—Offered Frank Meyers instructor of Manual training a salary of $10 per week for one and one half days' work.

April 25, 1922—Voted to enter a protest against the granting of a license for the holding of "outdoor carnivals" in the vicinity of school buildings, because of the damage liable to said buildings and the attendant distraction of scholars from their school work.

To the Trustees of the George Sykes Manual Training School.

Gentlemen:

It is currently reported that the trustees are contemplating the erection in the near future, of a school building upon their lot in the center of the city, approximately the site of the present High School building, with a view of carrying out the instructions in the will of the late George Sykes relating to the teaching of certain branches of Manual Training. The town of Vernon has outgrown its present High School building and must in the near future erect others, if the present conditions remain.

If we are rightly informed, the branches required by the will of the late Mr. Sykes to be taught are those which the school committee believe ought to be taught in every town, and which in a meager way are now being taught within the limits available by the High School. It occurred to the members of the school committee that perhaps the town of Vernon and the trustees of the proposed Manual Training School might cooperate, thus relieving the town from the great expense of erecting a new building, and at the same time giving to the Manual Training School the aid of the High School Department and equipment, that both the Manual Training School and the High School could be served in the same building.

This is in the nature of an informal inquiry to ascertain if the trustees would entertain a proposition from the town along the lines indicated, the trustees of course retaining full control of their property, and plant.

Respectfully yours,

The School Committee of the Town of Vernon,

John G. Talcott,
Secretary.

April 25, 1922.

June 9, 1922—Recommended that the school house at Ogden's Corner be enlarged to accommodate the pupils in that district.

September 13, 1922—Town meeting to see if the Town will vote to erect a new school building in that part of the town known as the West District.

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Town School Committee to negotiate with the trustees of the George Sykes Manual Training School for the purpose of cooperation in the maintenance of a public school.

November 1, 1922—It was suggested that the new school building for the West District be named The Ellis Taft Hayward School.

April 4, 1923—Voted to name the new school "The Maple Street School." There was some discussion as to the re-naming of other schools and there was a sentiment that all schools be named to indicate their location, as Dobsonville, Hale Street, etc. The vote on Maple Street was unanimous.

September 19, 1923—New room suggested for Northeast School where the lower room is crowded with 37 pupils, of whom 19 are in grade one.

October 19, 1923—Voted that the Committee approves in general the plans for the Manual Training and High School, and suggests to the trustees of the George Sykes Fund that if the proposed building is erected, it be made sure that the system of ventilation used be the best possible for a school building that it is feasible to incorporate in the plans, and that the trustees also consider the use of oil as fuel for heating the building.

January 2, 1924—Superintendent Clough reported that the new Maple Street School was opened for school work this very day and that all were pleased with the new school. The teachers' room was equipped by the teachers themselves.

March 5, 1924—The Committee reported that the desks, seats, and blackboards in the Old West School had been sold for $275.

December 30, 1925—Proposed changes of Old High School estimate Libby & Blinn of Hartford, $5,799.00.

December 1, 1926—Figures on the enumeration were 1951, a falling off of 97 from last year, due partly to the closing of the Rock Mill.

December 7, 1927—Reported that windows in the old East building had been boarded up as so many panes of glass had been broken.

January 20, 1928—Because of a wide outbreak of smallpox cases in the State, the school committee of the town of Vernon at a special meeting held January 20, 1928, voted "that we recommend the vaccination of all school children, and that a letter to this effect be sent to all parents or guardians of the children. The charge for vaccination at the schools was fifty cents, and over 300 children were vaccinated.

March 6, 1929—Principal McClellan raised money in the school and purchased two busts, one of Washington and one of Lincoln, for the Assembly room of the Maple Street School.

April 3, 1929—The report of the truant officer showed four cases of children looked up and returned to school by him.

May 7, 1930—Reported that the tower had been taken off of the East School.

September 4, 1931—After thoroughly considering the matter, it was voted to postpone the opening of the school until September 14 because of the prevalence of infantile paralysis.

February 3, 1932—That the janitor of school at Vernon Depot be allowed a dollar a month for bringing water to the school house for drinking purposes.

November 30, 1932—That there be a reduction in salaries beginning in December, and in March, 1933, teachers received five per cent cut in pay. The Board also voted no opportunity room or drawing teacher.

April 12, 1933—That the belfry of the East School be removed at a cost of $62.00—that the High School be closed because of scarlet fever and would open May 1st unless new cases appeared—that the music department be discontinued temporarily for financial reasons.

October 4, 1935—A meeting of the Board of Education was called to consider the report of the General Committee of the Town desiring to build a school house and gymnasium as a Soldiers' Memorial. They recommended a twelve room school building.

November 3, 1937—The old Grammar school building on School Street is being demolished by the New York & Hartford House Wrecking Company. The Board will receive $100 and we were allowed to retain the old bell.

November 1, 1939—A letter was received from George Sturges, State Director of Law and Attendance, stating that payment by the Town for the transportation of children to parochial or other private schools is not authorized under the State Law.

May 25, 1942—That a physical director be engaged not to exceed $2700 per year under a contract not to exceed a three-year period.

February 3, 1943—That the building committee be empowered to convert the oil-burning boilers in the Sykes Memorial High School to coal-burning boilers, with approval of the Board.

June 2, 1943—That a certain tract of land on Dobsonville School property be turned over to the Selectmen of the Town to be used by Dobsonville Fire Department.

December 8, 1943—That Night School be discontinued after December 16, due to small enrollment, and on the recommendation of the Night School Faculty.

March 7, 1945—Philip M. Howe retires from position as Superintendent of Schools and Principal of the High School on completion of contract in August, 1945. He served 42 years in the schools: nine as a teacher, 33 as a principal, the last eight years also as Superintendent of Schools.

April 4, 1945—Arthur E. Chatterton appointed Superintendent of Schools, and Allen L. Dresser, Principal of High School.

September 5, 1946—This was George Arnold's last meeting as a member of the Board on which he served faithfully eleven years.

November 7, 1946—It was the sentiment of the Board that the Superintendent should proceed to try to work out plans with the clergy of the town of Vernon such that the pupils of the town might have the opportunity to obtain religious education during the school day.

November 7, 1946—Voted that the Superintendent write a letter to the Selectmen of the town of Vernon asking that the land on

East Street next to the Town Farm be set aside and be marked for a future school site so as to guarantee that if the Board of Selectmen should in the future be changed the land would still be guaranteed to the Board of Education.

December 5, 1946—It was observed that for the first time in many years a representative of the local papers has been present in that capacity, and Mr. Von Euw was cordially welcomed.

In 1947 the gift of a new stage curtain by Mrs. Phelps was acknowledged.

April 7, 1948—A new salary schedule for teachers was adopted—the minimum $2,200, maximum $4,000.

In the year 1948 the High School "Banner" won second place honors in its division in the National Contest among school publications sponsored by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Competed with magazines entered by Senior High Schools in all parts of the country with enrollments between 300 and 800.

June 1, 1948—Attorney Saul Peizer moved that a committee of 12 be appointed to investigate the need of a new school in the town of Vernon, six residents from Rural Vernon and six from City of Rockville. Also exofficio members Board of Selectmen, Building Committee, Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools.

| **City Committee** | **Rural Vernon Committee** |
|---|---|
| Morgan Campbell | Franklin Welles |
| Mrs. E. Fenton Burke | Martin Lehan |
| Maurice Miller | Eldna Johnston |
| Forrest Musser | Att. Saul Peizer |
| Ralph Snape | Alice Hammar |
| Romeo Auclair | Robert Marcham |
| **Exofficio Members Board of Selectmen** | **Board of Education Building Committee** |
| Ernest A. Schindler | Maurice L. Spurling |
| Vincent F. Jordan | Herman Olson |
| John Rorup | Dr. M. V. B. Metcalf |

The Committees appointed to make a study of the school needs reported.

June 29, 1948—Special Town Meeting.

Committee approved for Building Committee:

| Rural Vernon | Rockville |
|---|---|
| Saul Peizer | Morgan Campbell |
| Franklin Welles | Allen Schaeffer |
| Mrs. Eldna Johnston | Ralph Snape |
| Mrs. George Hammar | Mrs. E. Fenton Burke |
| Martin Lehan | Romeo Auclair |
| Robert Marcham | Mrs. Herman Olsen |

March 29, 1949—Special Town Meeting.

Because of the large number of people present it was impossible to make a choice of a chairman. At this point Fire Marshal William Conrady addressed the meeting, stating it would be impossible to hold a meeting in this hall with such a large attendance. The main hall, stairways and entrance hall were all filled. Because of the existing hazard, he then ordered the hall cleared and the meeting automatically broke up at 8:22 p.m. People in hall—about 1200.

June 15, 1949—Special Town Meeting at 7 p.m. in Rockville Recreation Field. Mr. Harry H. Lugg elected chairman.

The School Building Committee had conducted an investigation to determine the minimum new school facilities that must be provided at this time.

As a result of investigating, the following recommendations are submitted for consideration:—

1. That the town of Vernon erect two new schools

(a) one at the East Street site to accommodate the elementary pupils now attending Northeast, East and Old High Schools.

(b) one at a site in Rural Vernon to accommodate the resident pupils now attending Talcottville, Vernon Depot, Maple Street, East, County Home and Old High Schools.

2. That each of these proposed schools contains 9 grades and necessary auxiliary rooms, including a combination gymnasium and auditorium, each school to cost approximately $300,000.

3. That the town of Vernon apply for a grant to the Public School Building Commission of the State of Connecticut in accordance with public act No. 333. The receipt of this grant will reduce the above cost by the amount received.

4. That the membership of the Vernon School Building Committee be enlarged to include the First Selectman and a member of the Board of Education.

This year's elementary school enrollment has shown an increase of over 100 pupils. From all available statistics the school enrollment will continue to increase in a larger proportion during the next 5 years and the present facilities will not accommodate any such increases. Therefore, your committee strongly urges that immediate action be taken upon its recommendations.

Resolved: that the present personnel of the Vernon School Building Committee be discharged with thanks, and be it further resolved, that the personnel of the Vernon School Building Committee henceforth and until further amended by a Town Meeting duly warned for said purpose shall consist of the following members: First Selectman of the town of Vernon and his successors; Mayor of the city of Rockville and his successors, three members of the Board of Education and their successors, to be chosen by said Board; two members of the Board of Finance and their successors to be chosen by said Board.

Tellers reported 317 in favor, 428 opposed.

June 28, 1949—Special Meeting.

July 12, 1949—Franklin Welles of the Vernon School Building Committee appeared before the Board to explain the building site that had been investigated and chosen by the Building Committee. This site, known as the Riley-Touhey site was priced at $10,400. The board approved the site, but thought the price excessive. On the other hand the location was central, the site large enough for a good school playground, has room for further expansion and was approved by the State Board of Education.

In September of 1949—The Board was saddened at the news of the death of Francis S. Nettleton, Chairman from 1916 to 1924, and treasurer from 1924 to 1945.

The Class of 1947 innovation in its program for graduation. Instead of graduating in the traditional attire of evening gowns and suits, this year the class decided to graduate in cap and

gown. Cut out expense and make ceremony more uniform and impressive.

October 25, 1949—Special Town Meeting.

To vote upon the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the sum of $600,000 is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting, equipping and suitably furnishing two elementary schools within said town, said appropriation to include the purchase of sites for said 2 schools and all other costs and charges therefor, and the expenditure of said appropriation is hereby authorized on order of the Vernon School Building Committee and said Committee is hereby authorized and empowered to order expenditures out of said appropriation for the within and foregoing purposes."

Result—Yes 832—No 2546. Polls were open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

November 22, 1949, at 8 p.m., Sykes Auditorium—Harry H. Lugg moderator.

1. Mr. Usher presented following resolution "Be it resolved that the Town is in favor of the immediate erection, equipping and suitably furnishing of one elementary school within said town at a total cost to include the purchase of the site and all other costs and charges therefore, or not more than $300,000. Unanimously passed.

2. Committee to be known as the Vernon School Building Committee.

3. Be it resolved that the Vernon School Building Committee is hereby authorized and empowered immediately to seek an appropriation of not more than $300,000.

That the Vernon School Building Committee is hereby authorized and empowered to select a site for the elementary school —250 present.

December 20, 1949

$6,000 appropriated for preliminary architects fee incurred for the building of school or schools.

January 24, 1950—We the undersigned members of the Town of Vernon School Building Committee hereby submit our resignation as members of this Committee, said resignation to take effect as of today.

Signed:

John E. Flaherty,
Maurice L. Spurling,
James Doherty,
John L. Kramer,
Thomas F. Rady.

In May, 1950—An inter communication system was installed in the High School whereby announcements may be read each morning and afternoon to the entire school. Pupils may be called from individual rooms and programs originated from the classroom.

May 12, 1950—Mr. J. McCusker was appointed Assistant Principal of Rockville High School.

June 7, 1950—At an executive session, it was passed that Mr. Dresser be given the position of assistant Superintendent of Schools in charge of finance at no increase in salary.

September 26, 1950—Special Town Meeting in Sykes Auditorium, Attorney Harry H. Lugg elected moderator.
Mr. Marcham presented the following resolution:—"Be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen, the Vernon School Building Committee and any and all other officers of the town of Vernon, are hereby authorized and empowered and directed to take any and all steps necessary, proper, or incidental to securing any and all financial aid or assistance which may be procurable from the State or Federal Government, or otherwise, which might assist in defraying, or reimbursing the town for, all or any part or parts of the appropriation set forth in paragraph one of the warning of Special Town Meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 1950, and they and each of them are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to make, sign, execute and deliver any and all instruments necessary for the purpose of this resolution and of said warning.
Motion seconded by Franklin Welles, Voted. About 350 voters present.

June 27, 1950—That sum of $7,000 be appropriated to Board of Education for the purpose of establishing an Electrical Shop in the George Sykes Manual Training and High School, said sum to be reimbursed to the Town by the State of Connecticut.

September 26, 1950. Resolved that the sum of $373,123.11 is hereby appropriated for the erection, equipping and suitable furnishing of one elementary school within the Town of Vernon.

March 13, 1951—Resolutions on the death of Philip Mead Howe:
"Philip Mead Howe—a graduate of Yale University with Phi Beta Kappa honors, came to Rockville High School in 1903 as a teacher of history. In 1912 he became principal, and

in 1937 he added the duties and responsibilities of superintendent, which position he held until his voluntary retirement in 1945.

"As a teacher of history, he was without a peer; as an administrator of the schools, he was unexcelled. His influence will long be felt by the Town he so ably served."

Following his retirement, he served from 1947-1948 in the State Legislature as a representative of the Town of Vernon, and served as chairman of the Education Committee.

NEW NORTHEAST DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

On June 29, 1954, the Library celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the George Maxwell Memorial Library, known as the Rockville Public Library, by having "Open House" from 7 P.M.-9 P.M. There were short speeches made by officials of the city and town, Mr. Lugg, Mr. Belding and Miss Peck. The Library's treasures, consisting of the John Eliot Indian Bible, a page of the Gutenberg Bible, and many pictures and maps of old Rockville were on view.

The local story opens with the year 1776 when there was established in Vernon, then North Bolton, a library which furnished to the small population of that distant time such books as were considered by the founders "suited to promote useful knowledge and piety in the community." There is in the old Bolton records a manuscript containing a catalog and the articles for the founding, establishing, and perpetuating of a proprietary library in North Bolton Society, agreed upon and signed by the original proprietors April 17, 1776. Eighty-four names in all are affixed. The second signature on the list is that of Ebenezer Kellogg, minister of Vernon

ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

for 55 years and the last signature is that of George Kellogg. When a committee was appointed in 1808 to purchase more books, Ebenezer Kellogg and Phineas Talcott, his son-in-law served. The cost of a share in this library was ten shillings, and each signer bound himself in the sum of two pounds to abide by the rules and regulations of the association. Each proprietor was allowed to take out one book and keep it for three months, but he had to pay two pence per day for every day he kept it beyond that time. These good people took no chances on their treasurer stealing their money or their librarian losing their books, for each was placed under a bond of 200 pounds, which must have been well beyond any value in their hands.

In 1808 there were 118 works, some of them in two or three volumes, and in that same year 48 were added. It is illuminating to observe that the books consisted largely of sermons and heavy religious treatises such as Dr. Watts' "Logic," Jonathan Edwards on "Religious Affections," and Harvey's "Meditations." There were a few books of more general interest—McKenzie's "Voyages in North America," Cook's "Voyages," etc. But here was the beginning of the diffusion of book knowledge in the Town of Vernon—a few books kept either in a private house or in some portion of the old Mother Church.

The first authentic record of a successful attempt to establish a public library in the town of Vernon began with the formation of the Vernon Union Library Company, which adopted its constitution and by-laws in the month of February, 1811, with 80 subscribers, among whom was George Kellogg. Indeed the idea was born in his fertile mind. He was strongly impressed with the feeling that institutions of an educational and moral character should keep pace with the growth of the town and with the advancement of material wealth. In 1843 George Kellogg and Allen Hammond, then the managing owners of the New England Mill, purchased 300 books for the use and benefit of the employees of the mill. The books were labelled The New England Company's Library. Unfortunately, the standard was too high and furnished reading matter which did not appeal to the tastes of those for whom the books were provided. The working man had not yet started on the way to a formal education.

For twenty years the subject of a Public Library was frequently discussed and its needs were publicly emphasized. Then a few public-spirited citizens—dreamy-eyed optimists—started a public

subscription library and as a result 500 books were added to the New England Mill collection. This library was located in the office of the White Gingham Mill, later the John J. Regan Manufacturing Company, and was in charge of George F. Brigham, bookkeeper of that company. Hudson H. Kellogg, possessing the dauntless hardiness of those pioneer days, worked incessantly for its success, which was consummated by the proceeds of a fair held by an organization of young people known as the Mayflower Society. The books were loaned out on a subscription of $1.00 a year, and occasionally new books were added. Later the library was moved to the Probate office in the small bank building where the new Rockville National Bank was erected. After a short time it was removed to a room in the Exchange Block, in charge of E. W. Foote. New books were added in that store, so that in 1896 there were 2,000 books in the subscription library.

In the meantime, throughout the town there was a growing thirst for knowledge. A German Reading Society met in Linck's Hall on Village Street, and the tingling and intense chronicle of the Secretary of that Society reveals that in the year 1892 their newly-organized library was in a flourishing condition with a membership of over 200. There were 859 books in its library, and in that same year 200 additional books were purchased. The members met every Sunday at their room on Village Street for the exchange of books. Monthly dues proved sufficient for the needs of the treasury. The majority of the books were in the German language, a few only in English. Many, in fact the majority of the German residents in Rockville at that time were unable to read English.

The Franklin Institute for debates in Vernon and Village Improvement Societies in Rockville were weather vanes waiting for the wind to blow in the right direction. The George Maxwell Fund of $5,000 opened a free reading room and library in the Union Congregational Church. Daily papers, weekly magazines and books attracted large numbers of men in the day and evening. That was in 1892. Miss Sarah Wicks, librarian for many years, reported an average attendance from 50 to 75 persons daily. Twenty thousand people visited the room in the year 1894.

In 1893 a new enterprise was launched. George Maxwell bequeathed to the town of Vernon the sum of $10,000 for a free public library, provided the town in five years raise an equal sum, and on the 19th day of April, 1893, the legislature of the State of Con-

necticut incorporated The Rockville Public Library, naming as its incorporators Francis T. Maxwell, William Maxwell, George Sykes, W. H. Prescott, Charles Phelps, A. Park Hammond and Joseph C. Hammond. Under the provisions of its charter there were subsequently added four other names—two from the city and two from the town.

In that same year the Rockville Library Association was formally organized, and in 1895 the town appropriated $10,000 to secure the George Maxwell offer. As a result of this appropriation the new library was incorporated under the laws of Connecticut as the Rockville Public Library, and was opened June 12, 1896. It was located in the rooms occupied until recent years by the Telephone Company in the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company building on Elm Street. The exact amount turned over to the library directors was $12,600, being the amount originally bequeathed and accumulated interest.

J. C. Hammond rushed to draw out the first book. On the first day, one hundred books were borrowed, 125 on Saturday and 150 on Monday. Success followed immediately. At the first Annual Meeting held in the office of the Aqueduct Company, Francis T. Maxwell presided, and the first report showed that the circulation started at 800 per week, 75% of which was fiction. Nine hundred people borrowed 18,100 books between June 11, 1896, and January 1, 1897. The town was allowed $200 for books by the State, and at the October, 1896, meeting of the town an appropriation of $300 was voted toward the maintenance of the public library. The first librarian was Miss Geraldine Keating of the Albany School for Librarians. Her salary was $500 a year. She resigned after a year to return to her native land and in Buckinghamshire, one hour from Londan, she enjoyed for many years a little cottage, a garden and a trout stream.

George Maxwell not only bequeathed a sum of money which enabled this enterprise to be placed upon a substantial basis, but in his lifetime he gave to the subject careful and earnest thought. The same strong purpose and constant endeavor which characterized him as a business man marked him also as a philanthropist. He loved church, school, library, and became their munificent patron. Into these institutions he put his money, but better than all, he put into them himself. He loved Rockville and all her institutions. True, the wishes and purposes of his life were in some measure interrupted by his death, but the work which lay on his heart was taken up by the surviving members of the family in 1891.

The present library building—The George Maxwell Memorial Library—on Union Street, was given to the Town of Vernon in the year 1904 in memory of George Maxwell by his wife, Harriet Kellogg Maxwell, and his children—J. Alice Maxwell, William Maxwell, Francis T. Maxwell and Robert Maxwell, the privileges of the library to be free to all residents of the town of Vernon. The building, the equipment, the grounds, and the greater part of the money that it requires to sustain it, were given to the Town by the Maxwell family. Other people attracted by the noble work begun have occasionally left money for the purchase of books and for general expenses, and the Town gives $4,000 annually toward its support, but the Maxwell family by its generosity has made it possible for Rockville to have one of the finest of the small libraries in New England.

Mr. Maxwell provided in his will the nucleus for a public library, the second clause reading,

> "I give and bequeath unto my executors hereafter named the sum of $10,000 in trust to invest and keep the same invested, and to receive the income thereof, and accumulate the same, and if within two years after my death, a corporation shall be duly organized, to be called the Rockville Public Library for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a public library in the city of Rockville, and which shall have legal capacity to accept the legacy herein mentioned, and if such corporation shall procure for the purposes aforesaid, from other sources, the like sum of $10,000, then, and as soon as such conditions shall be complied with, I direct my said executors to pay over and transfer said sum of $10,000 and all accumulations of income thereon, or the securities in which the same may be invested, unto said corporation, to have and to hold the same for the purpose above mentioned forever."

The location of the library on Union Street, west of the Fitch block, is ideal. It is central and easy of access to all parts of the Town, an essential taken into consideration by its projectors.

The site was purchased by the Maxwell family from the Rock Manufacturing Company. Previously on the spot stood two dwelling houses, the one on the east was occupied by Mayor Edwin L. Heath and the other on the west by Crossley Fitton.

On Union Street, but facing West Main Street, stood the Maxwell home where the Maxwell children were born, "Kellogg

Lawn." Next to the Maxwell house was the residence of Mr. A. W. Rice, whose drug store stood where Metcalf's drug store is now; and next was the home of Allyn Talcott, Phineas Talcott, and a third brother. The Talcotts had a grocery store in a building now occupied in part by Metcalf's Drug Store.

About the first of March, 1903, ground was broken and excavation started. The first stone of the foundation was laid March 13th. Charles A. Platt, of New York, designed the building, and the contractor for its construction was F. L. Whitcomb of Boston, the contract price being $90,000 which together with the cost of the lot, furnishings, etc., represented an expenditure of about $150,000. Whitcomb had just built the beautiful and costly residence later owned and occupied by the Elks.

The building itself, 86 x 42 ft. with an ell in the rear 30 x 52, is a commanding classic structure, architectually noble. The exterior is of white marble hewn from the quarries of Vermont. The interior finish is of Sienna marble and stained oak. The approach is impressive and majestic, two flights of granite steps leading up to eight Ionic columns. In the pediment is a bronze clock, illuminated by night. Over the small pediment at the entrance door is the carving of a book, symbolic of the library. The vestibule is lined with Formosa marble, unusually beautiful. In the frieze around the Reading Room appear the names of twenty-four of the greatest literary characters of all time—Shakespeare, Tennyson, Browning, Addison, Milton, Johnson, Bunyan, Chaucer, Homer, Virgil, Dante, Goethe, Thackeray, Scott, Dickens, Eliot, Emerson, Stevenson, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Burns, Bacon, Hugo, and Poe. Over the charging desk is a Latin inscription as vivacious as it is instructive. A good translation reads—"We drink from this fountain those things which are highest."

The John Eliot Bible in the library was given by Lion Gardiner in memory of his friend Robert Maxwell. This Bible was translated into the Algonquin language by John Eliot who was known as "Apostle of the Indians," in 1663.

About 1500 copies are said to have been printed. Some of these are in Oxford and Cambridge Universities; the British Museum, and Trinity College, Dublin. In this country the Congressional Library, New York Public Library and the Boston Public Library own copies. There are 34 copies listed in a pamphlet published by the Library of Congress.

The copy in the Rockville Public Library was used by an Indian chief of the Nihantic tribe in Lyme, Connecticut. He gave it in 1812 to John Lion Gardiner of Gardiner's Island, New York.

Three original John Brown letters are preserved in the library. One in June, 1839, West Hartford, tells that John Brown has received $2,800 to be expended for wool in Ohio or refunded when called for. The second letter, August, 1839, tells of John Brown's shame that he cannot refund the money, and that his property, etc., must be sold to repay the money he has borrowed. In the third letter, of July, 1846, (Springfield), John Brown tells of sending four bags of No. 3 wool and one bag of wet wool. He writes of his confidence in George Kellogg as to the price of the wool.

On a perfect day in June, 1904, people of the town of Vernon received through the mail this printed invitation—

> The honor of your presence is requested at the Dedication ceremonies of the George Maxwell Memorial Library of Rockville, Connecticut, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 29th June, 1904, at three o'clock, at the Union Congregational Church.
>
> The library will be open for inspection at the close of the Dedicatory exercises.

The Maxwell Memorial Library was presented to the Town of Vernon on Wednesday, 29th June, 1904, in ceremonies of rare excellence and able addresses. Beeman & Hatch's orchestra occupied a portion of the annex. The organ was not used. The only singing was "America" by the audience. George Morgan Ward, Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Literature, president of Wells College, offered the prayer. Hon. Charles Phelps presided and gave an address, which according to the newspapers of the day had rarely if ever been equalled in the city's history.

Colonel Francis T. Maxwell, always the soul of brevity, made the presentation in these words:

> "Representing the Maxwell family, it gives me great pleasure to present to the Rockville Public Library the keys and title deeds of the George Maxwell Memorial Library."

Joseph C. Hammond, Jr., treasurer of the Rockville Public Library, accepted the trust. Next came an address by Professor George Rice Carpenter, of Columbia College, subject—"The Public Li-

brary in New England Life and Letters." Governor Abiram Chamberlain gave a short address; the Benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. Francis George, of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Since this building was opened in 1904 the library has circulated close to three million books—the number of books in the library in 1954 was 29,000. The reference collection contains late editions of encyclopedias, dictionaries in foreign languages, and many other volumes too numerous to mention. Over 90 magazines are subscribed to.

In 1954 the Children's Room, renamed the Junior Library, was moved upstairs to what was "Library Hall." This released space much needed for the overcrowded art and music books.

The Rockville Public Library has given service to the schools through classroom libraries, talks on books given in the classes and instruction on the use of the library. When the new school was opened in Vernon 600 books were loaned, including encyclopedias, dictionary and an atlas. When the new school opens in the east end of the town, the library will give similar service. Service is given to high school students in the library where help is needed on reference problems and reading. The Tolland County Art Association has held seven annual art exhibits in the library.

Librarians in charge who have rendered faithful service through the years are 1896-1897 Miss Geraldine Keating; 1897-1906 Florence Davis; 1906-1908 Lillian May Gamwell; 1908-1910 H. Elizabeth White; 1910-1912 Bessie Beckwith. Miss Edith M. Peck came to the library in 1912 and is still the courteous and competent librarian.

Amid the news stands, the radio, television serials, the motion picture houses of the Town of Vernon, the Rockville Public Library stands firm as the treasury of the writings of the centuries. Here the individual who still wants ideas which have not been watered down may find what he seeks. All of us owe a debt of gratitude to the library for its hospitality and helpfulness, indeed, the library is almost as vital a part of our educational system as the schoolhouse.

The story of the Rockville Public Library is the story of books, and books are not simply paper and ink and cloth—they are personalities. They are a company of immortals who have walked the common road and are now marching on to eternity. Books are bridges which cross dark rivers—they are ships which carry us across the sea of despair. They open their hearts to us—they speak

to us of their adventures, their romances, their tragedies, their explorations. They lift our horizons. They make us laugh and cry, fear and hope.

This noble testimonial to the memory of the Maxwell family is placed at the entrance to the bookshelves:—

> "The year 1942 marks the passing of a family long endeared to the hearts of this community for their constant thoughtfulness and generous recognition of the needs of their fellowmen.
>
> The Rockville Public Library is a lasting example of a tireless effort begun by Harriet Kellogg Maxwell, her daughter Alice and three sons Francis, William and Robert in 1903 as a memorial to their father George Maxwell. It was completed a year later, in character and design quite in keeping with the splendid traditions of this old New England family.
>
> A structure of beauty architectually and finished throughout in the minutest detail to accommodate the needs of the reading public, forthwith was presented to the Town of Vernon with the thought carefully concealed in the hearts of the donors that it would never become a burden to the recipient and it never has. Through these years the same painstaking attention has been kept active and productive of additions and gifts to enrich the body of the institution, first by one member of the family and then by another. The library was never permitted to close its books with a deficit.
>
> Finally, their generosity, shining the brightest as they bade goodbye to friends and relatives for the last time, has lighted the path whereby the Rockville Public Library will move ahead untroubled to its destiny as a real friend and public servant to those for whom the Maxwell Family intended it.
>
> It is a privilege to have lived with people like these. We may well thank God that this opportunity has been ours."
>
> Recorded in the Minutes of The Corporators of the Rockville Public Library at the Annual Meeting held on January 26, 1943.

Portraits of Mrs. Harriet Kellogg Maxwell, George Kellogg, Eliza Noble Kellogg and Nathaniel Olmstead Kellogg were presented to the library by the late William and J. Alice Maxwell, while that of Colonel Francis McLean was presented by his great-great-granddaughter, Mrs. Mae Dickinson Chapman.

Inscription on painting on card: "Colonel Francis McLean, son of Alexander McLean, born in Bolton, September 26, 1777, died in Vernon, November 18, 1861—one of the Founders of Rockville." (A fine piece of restoration by Gustave A. Hoffman, of Rockville.)

Portrait of Mrs. Maxwell, done by Charles Noel Flagg; Mrs. Harriet Kellogg Maxwell, daughter of George Kellogg, born May 2, 1824, married November 3, 1846, died January 24, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. George Maxwell, parents of Colonel Francis T. Maxwell, William, Robert, and Miss J. Alice Maxwell.

# SECTION V

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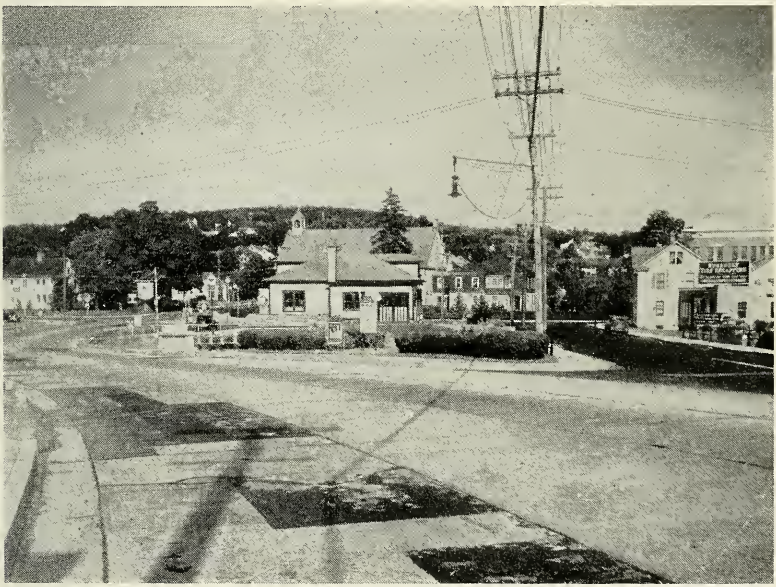
## APPROACHING THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE

Rockville is a charming little city, resting in a valley cup, surrounded by majestic trees and sunny hillsides. It is situated one hundred and twenty miles northeast of New York, and eighty-two miles south of Boston, as the airplane flies. Its outlines were originally sketched by the supreme architect of the universe.

As one approaches it from the east by way of the ancient Tolland hills he is attracted by the romantic lake, the Shenipset, and charmed with its pellucid water and emerald shores, its wooded bluff and sloping beach; if he approaches it from the west, he beholds a panorama of terraced houses rising tier above tier to the top of the hills, resembling a Mediterranean city which lies close to the shore; if he enters the city from the north, the farmlands of historic Ellington offer him an enchanting spectacle of Fox Hill and an impressive War Memorial Tower; and if he chooses to enter it from the south, an unbroken range of mountains provides for the landscape a long, magnificent vista, and gives the busy, hopeful city of eight thousand souls a sense of security.



ENTRANCE TO CITY

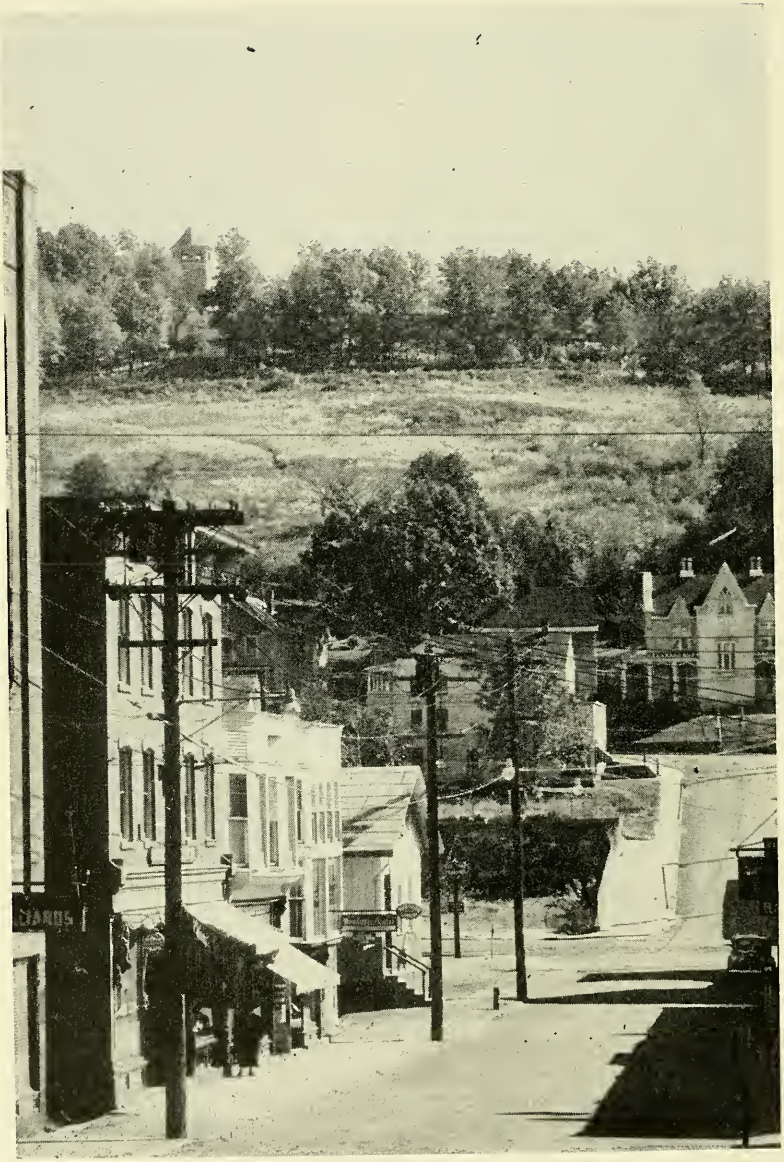
## THE CHOICE OF A NAME

For more than a hundred years Rockville remained a hamlet without a name. Its earliest history is imbedded in the Town of Vernon. The few inhabitants at the beginning clustered around the mills in a chain of little houses, and when in the year 1836 the population grew to 440 (61 families with 89 children under ten years of age) the villagers desired a permanent name for the neighborhood to which they had been drawn by the beginnings of industry.

Families then living in Rockville were: Horace Vinton, Rufus West, Charles T. Talcott, Seth W. Johnson, Nehemiah Daniels, James Stewart, John Williams, Mrs. Northrop, George C. Weston, Chauncey Loomis, Winslow Woods, Trumbull Tracy, J. F. Judd, George Kellogg, Lucius Hinckley, Billings Bugbee, Mrs. Parmelia Dimmock, Selden McKinney, Austin McKinney, Willard Fuller, Loomis Thompson, Jehiel Fuller, W. O. Hough, Sanford Grant, John Gilmore, Eli Hammond, William T. Cogswell, Widow Otis McLean, Jr., George Lee, Christopher Burdick, Chauncey Winchell, John Wyman, Joel Snow, William Kent, William Wiston, David Packard, Gurdon Grant, Francis Grant, Samuel Moredock, Horace Thompson, Benjamin Waller, Joel Vinton, Ralph Barber, Enoch W. Daniels, Ephraim Sanford, Isaac Sanford, A. G. Fitch, Andrew W. Tracy, Simon C. Chapman, William Champin, Miner Preston, Charles A. Buckland, William T. Lynch, Joseph D. Metcalf, Ephraim Parker, Benjamin Johnson, Carlo West, Halsey Fuller, Mrs. John Stebbins, Elizur Hurlbut, and Elijah Payne.

In the early whisperings of spring, 1837—a year of fiscal malnutrition—an amateurish notice posted on the Rock Mill announced a public meeting in the lecture room of the village to decide in a democratic way the most suitable name for the vicinity. Very soon the village would have a post office of its own, and a permanent name would then be necessary. A vigorous controversy introduced a number of suggestions: the name of Frankfort in honor of a pioneer, Francis McLean; Vernon Falls won a chirp of enthusiasm; Grantville would perpetuate the memory of the first resident; a fiery, arm-waving speech favored Hillborough, because of the hilly nature of the village; but the granitic solidity of Rockville seemed inevitable. "Going to the Rock" was a common expression understood on the streets and a safe compass for direction.

A certain Simon C. Chapman, who kept a local boarding house, and who knew from daily table discussion the wishes of the male population, acted with commendable alacrity and, without marked brilliance or artifice, submitted the name of Rockville. So Rockville became the name of the growing demesne.



FOX HILL

## FOX HILL

Fox Hill overlooks the famous Connecticut Valley, and presents a panorama of some of the most charming landscape scenery to be found in New England. From its summit, six hundred and ninety-three feet above sea level, a magnificent view of the city, its immense mills, its stately churches, and schools and other public buildings, its attractive homes, and well-kept parks, may be had.

Far away may be seen Mt. Holyoke, Mt. Tom, Enfield, Suffield, Scantic, East Granby, Bartlett Tower, Talcott Mountain, a peak in Barkhamstead, Guilford, Durham, Middletown, Meriden Mountains, and the golden dome of the Capitol at Hartford. Two other points may be seen with strong glasses—Mt. Greylock, the monarch of Massachusetts, and the Town of Blandford.

The top of Travelers' Tower, Hartford, according to City Engineer Robert J. Ross, is 582.5 mean sea level, while the highest point on Fox Hill is 693 feet above sea level. The railroad track on Market Street is 391 feet; the top of Snipsic dam, 515 feet; the post office, 401.4 feet; and the Memorial Building, 401 feet. The lowest point in the city is at the corner of West and Union Streets, which has an elevation of 32.6 feet.

The name of Fox Hill came by its own right. It was nearly covered with heavy timber, and there was plenty of wild game, partridges, gray squirrels and rabbits. Foxes had their dens on the hill. There was as much snaring of game as gunning in the early days of the town. Where the Gaynor Place and Chestnut and Pros-

OLD VIEW OF FOX HILL

pect Streets are now situated were then pine and hemlock and chestnut trees. People in the village could sit on their doorsteps in the evening and hear the whippoorwills on Fox Hill.

A hundred years ago the height of Fox Hill was the subject of much discussion. In the year 1847, Superintendent Kershaw, of the Windermere Mill, and Francis Keeney, then landlord of the Rockville House differed in their calculations, and finally decided to settle the matter by a wager, the loser to pay for a supper at the hotel. The question to be decided was the height of Fox Hill from the level of the railroad track. Kershaw won the argument, and Keeney, known always for his good sportsmanship, entertained seventy guests. Invitation cards had this wording:

Fox Hill 302 Ft. 9 in.

FRANCIS KEENEY

At Rockville Hotel

Friday evening, December 12, 1847

from 7:30 to 11 o'clock

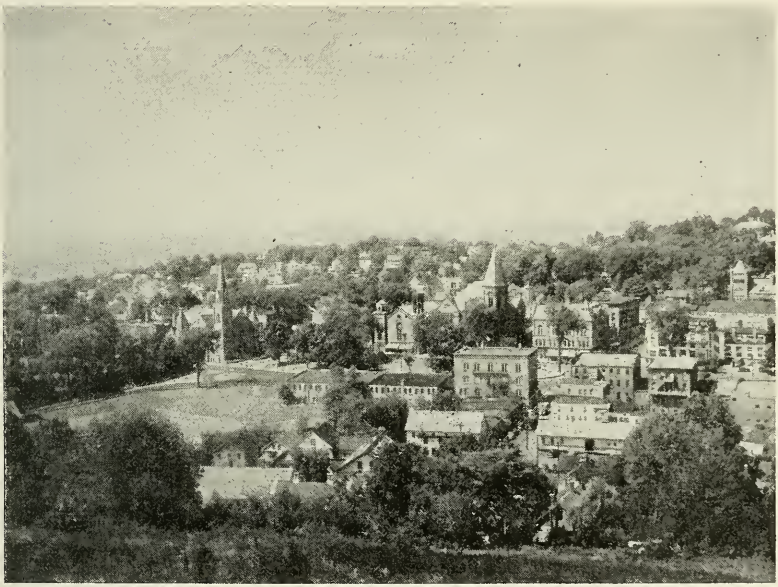
Refreshments consisted of oysters cooked in every conceivable style, cake and fruit. There were mirthful speeches, and the party proved so successful that it was decided Fox Hill should be measured again at a not too distant date.

Not everybody knows that in the year 1878 a tower was erected on Fox Hill—Jeffery's Tower. A Mr. Jeffery, of Meriden, came into possession of a piece of land at the summit and decided to build a tower sixty feet in height and rectangular in form; twenty feet square at the base, tapering to ten feet square at the top. The first story was boarded up, but the upper stories or platforms were open.

Jeffery had married a Porter girl—a sister of the artist Charles E. Porter. The homes of Henry Vanness and Charles E. Porter stood side by side on the hill.

Jefferry's Tower was opened to the public on Wednesday, May 29, 1878. In the top story a fine four-foot telescope was placed for the use of visitors. The admission to the tower was fifteen cents. Ice cream and other refreshments were served to order in the basement. A steady stream of visitors enjoyed the fireworks and music and illuminations on the Fourth of July of that year.

Unfortunately, two years later, on February 3, 1880, a blizzard blew down Jeffery's Tower, and the building trembled like a telephone wire in a storm. Later, Charles E. Porter, an artist of no mean reputation, used the first story for a studio, and there instructed pupils in painting and drawing, in a temperature which occasionally dropped an uncomfortable distance below zero.



VIEW FROM FOX HILL LOOKING WEST

## MAYORS OF THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE

| | |
|---|---|
| Samuel Fitch—Manufacturer | 1890-1891 |
| William V. McNerney—Carpenter | 1891-1893 |
| E. Stevens Henry—Banker, but preferred to be called a farmer | 1894-1895 |
| Edwin L. Heath—Bookkeeper Rock Company | 1896-1899 |
| William H. Loomis—Dentist | 1900-1903 |
| George Forster—Shoe Store Owner | 1904-1911 |
| Lyman Twining Tingier—Lawyer | 1912-1913 |
| S. Tracy Noble—Bookkeeper Hockanum Company | 1914-1915 |
| John P. Cameron—Bookkeeper Hockanum Company | 1916-1919 |
| Frederick G. Hartenstein—Printer | 1920-1921 |
| Joseph Grist—Weaving Overseer Springville Mill | 1922-1923 |
| John P. Cameron—Bookkeeper Hockanum Company | 1924-1927 |
| George Forster—Shoe Store Owner | 1928-1929 |
| Albert E. Waite—Bookkeeper New England Mill | 1930-1933 |
| George C. Scheets—Overseer Springville Mill | 1934-1935 |
| Claude A. Mills—Stationer | 1936-1941 |
| Raymond E. Hunt—Paymaster Hockanum Mills | 1942-1947 |
| Frederick S. Berger—Niles-Bement-Pond office | 1948- |

## LIST OF CITY CLERKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Parley B. Leonard (1 term of 2 years) | 1889-1890 |
| Martin Laubscher (1 term of 2 years) | 1891-1892 |
| Frank A. Randall (6 terms of 12 years) | 1893-1905 |
| John N. Keeney (8 terms of 16 years) | 1906-1922 |
| Raymond E. Hunt (10 terms of 20 years) | 1923-1942 |
| F. Leroy Elliott (2 terms of 4 years) | 1943-1947 |
| Catherine D. Moran (1 term of 2 years) | 1948-1949 |
| Margaret Kernan (part term) | 1949 to May 1951 resigned |
| Catherine Moran appointed to fill term and reelected in | Dec. 1951 to Dec. 1953<br>Reelected December 1953 |

THE NEW SEAL.

NEW SEAL OF CITY

## THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE

For thirty years there was a growing desire to make Rockville a city or a borough, and as early as the year 1861 a petition was circulated and a bill introduced before the General Assembly providing for a borough charter for Rockville, but it was adversely reported.

The advantages of a City Charter were set forth in the early part of 1884 in the local press. Many citizens asked the question: "Why postpone a step which ought long since to have been taken, one which will put our overgrown village into its proper position among the leading cities of the State, and which must eventually prove advantageous to all who call it home, to none more so than the very taxpayers who now shrink from it on the ground of expense?" A thorough ventilation of the subject was sought.

A wide-awake place, musical with the roar of falling waters and the cheerful hum of industry, enthusiastic and progressive, Rockville claimed the giant water power for its use and gathered gold from its streams by the hand of inventive labor, furnishing clothing, both cotton and woolen, for mankind, paper overcoats for letters, and useful thread and ornamental silk for the household. Why should it not have City control?

The city government would be entirely independent of town management, and would assume the absolute control of its streets and highways, fire department and sewage. It could make and enforce ordinances respecting buildings, streets and walks, street

lighting, the preservation of the public peace, all matters relating to the public health, and a thousand other things necessary to the well-being of the community.

On Friday, February 1, 1884, the following announcement appeared:

> "Notice is hereby given to the citizens of Rockville that a public meeting will be held in Rockville Hall next Monday evening, beginning at 7:30 for the purpose of discussing the question whether Rockville shall be made a borough or a city in this year of our Lord 1884. All who wish to express themselves on this very important question shall rise and explain at Rockville Hall next Monday night."

Several hundred attended the meeting for the purpose of discussing a definite question, "Shall we apply to the present legislature for a borough or city charter?" Cyrus White vociferously exclaimed in meeting: "Our taxes for the last twenty years have been outrageous, and have fallen with especial force upon the owners of small properties. City government would double it. This borough talk is all poppycock." A motion made by A. P. Hammond to abandon all steps toward obtaining a city or borough charter was carried by an overwhelming majority. The session lasted only about three-quarters of an hour.

An editorial two years later reflected the attitude of the villagers toward city government:

> "If there is one thing needed more than any other in our village, it is street lights, but no one seems to be anxious to take the initiative. A movement to this end, however, is now well under way, and on Friday evening it is expected an organization will be formed which shall make permanent properly lighted streets. Every citizen who is obliged to go about our streets of dark nights appreciates the terrible strains he gets by unexpectedly stepping off some high curbstone into a deep gutter, or into a gully washed in the sidewalk. Our population has a right to expect the accommodation of more light for their comfort and safety during their evening peregrinations. Safety of life and limb demands well-lighted streets.
>
> "The most feasible way to this and other improve-

ments may be effected by means of a Village Improvement Society. There is no reason why Rockville could not have a Society of 200 members. Go to Rockville Hall on Friday evening to assist in organizing such a society for the public good."

At a meeting a week later, with Brigham Payne as chairman, it was decided to form such a Society with a membership fee of $1.00.

Three years later, the *Hartford Times* of the first of February, 1889, informed us:

"Over 800 signatures have been obtained in Rockville to the petition for a City Charter. The people are overwhelmingly for it. The mills—the corporations oppose it. It would, they think, involve the cost of graded and flagged sidewalks, perhaps a cost of $2.00 a foot. But the crying want of Rockville is a system of sewerage. It is sorely needed. The petitioners for a city charter have, to reinforce them a petition to the Vernon selectmen by 400 of the women of Rockville, for a system of street lights. The selectmen say they lack the authority."

The committee hearing on House Bill #230, incorporating the City of Rockville was held at room 60, at the Capitol, Wednesday afternoon, February 27, 1889.

E. Stevens Henry was the first gentleman to appear before the committee. In presenting the petition he stated—

"Rockville contains the largest population of any village in the State without some kind of municipal organization. The petition of the taxpayers of Vernon, in behalf of a city charter for Rockville numbers over six hundred names, enthusiastically in favor of the proposed charter.

"In addition to this petition to the General Assembly, I have here a petition addressed to the Selectmen of the Town of Vernon and signed by more than 400 representative ladies of Rockville, 'We, the undersigned, members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and ladies of Rockville, lamenting the unsafe conditions of our streets and the frequent outrages perpetrated under cover of darkness and believing that existing circumstances demand prompt action, do most earnestly petition your honorable

> body to so increase lights and police force on our streets as to make them as safe as possible for the unprotected.' This petition of the ladies was respectfully returned by one Selectman with regret that under existing law it could not be granted by the Town."

Other gentlemen to appear before the committee were Judge West, George M. Paulk, William V. McNarney and G. W. Randall.

The Legislature of the State of Connecticut approved a Charter incorporating the City of Rockville on March 28, 1889.

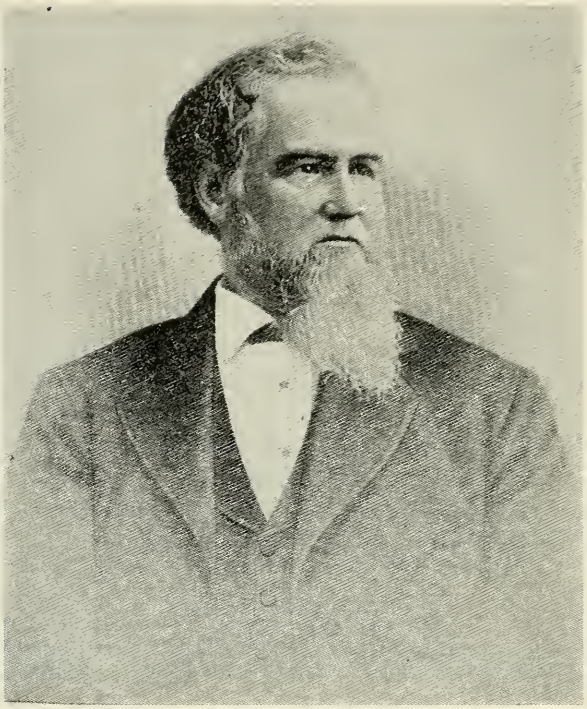
Thus the curtain of the recorded history of the City of Rockville was raised on April 13, 1889, for on that day the voters of Vernon declared their deliberate choice for a City Charter. There had been more thinking than talking on the subject among the citizens for a long time, and the ballot disclosed 963 voters favored the Charter, while 127 were opposed to it.

The adopted charter had been prepared with considerable thought. Charters from other cities, notably Danbury, had been examined. Finally, the selectmen of the Town of Vernon were instructed to call the first annual meeting of the City of Rockville.

The warrant for the first meeting of the City of Rockville read:

> "Freemen of the City of Rockville who are electors and equally qualified to vote at the meeting of said city are hereby warned that the first Annual Meeting of said City will be held on Monday, December 2, 1889. The city officers to be elected are a mayor, a clerk, a treasurer, a city sheriff, two auditors and three assessors. The ward officers to be elected in each ward are an alderman and two councilmen."

The first municipal election, December 2, 1889, was closely contested. Samuel Fitch, Republican, was elected mayor by a majority of only seven votes over Silas Putnam, Democrat (597-590). Fitch's election occurred on his 68th birthday. (He was born December 2, 1821, at Enfield, Connecticut.)



SAMUEL FITCH

## THE INAUGURATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT

The officers, including the aldermen and councilmen, met in the Fitch Building on Monday evening, January 6, 1890, as required by the charter, and to them was administered the oath of office by Mayor Fitch, who had been previously qualified, and was duly certified. Mayor Fitch addressed the assembly thus:

To the Honorable Board of Common Council:

> The General Assembly at its January session, 1889, passed an act incorporating the City of Rockville, and in said act, the Mayor is directed to recommend the adoption of all such measures connected with peace, security, health and general well-being of said city, and the improvement of its government and finances as he shall deem expedient.

> We are entering upon a field of action that is new to most, if not all of us. Let moderation and equity prevail, and laying aside all party prejudice, may we do those things which our consciences shall dictate to us are right for the best interests of the city at large, to the end that when our terms of office shall have expired, we may receive the approval of our constituents.

To perform the duties of mayor in his absence or in case of a vacancy he appointed W. E. Payne as President of Aldermen, and Edwin L. Heath President Common Council.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union presented a petition which, after congratulating the Mayor on his elevation to that office, prayed that the laws against the sale of intoxcating drinks, Sabbath violations in sale of liquors, sale of cigars and cigarettes to minors under 16 be rigidly enforced, and they made a protest against the display of indecent pictures and posters, and asked for a public reading room. They also expressed a desire for electric lights to make the streets safer and more comfortable at night, a police force, the regulation of building lines, and local improvements which will suggest themselves to the thinking mind.

## FIRST CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The first meeting of the City Council after Rockville had become a city in 1890 was held on the evening of January 10 in the council rooms of the Fitch Block. Those present at this first Council meeting were E. L. Heath, T. S. Pratt, C. E. Harris, Almon Harris, H. L. Allen, L. Young, and J. McPherson. The council voted that their meetings should not be open to the public and admittance was refused to the newspaper men. But with the assistance of a ladder to an open transom in an adjoining room, and a "leak" from one of the members, the newspaper reporters were able to give a full report of the meeting the next day. There was protest from many citizens against the closed sessions.

On January 21, two weeks later, therefore, it was—"Resolved that any voter of the city of Rockville or any representative of the Press shall have the privilege of attending the meetings of the Board." This has continued to be the policy of the Council.

## RECORDS OF PRELIMINARY MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

The first meeting of the aldermen was called to order at 8:30 p.m. January 6, 1890, with Mayor Fitch in the chair.

The First Resolution authorized the Mayor to appoint a committee consisting of one alderman and two councilmen to investigate the matter of street lights as to number of lamps, location of same, cost of same, and report at a future meeting.

Resolution 2—To consider the matter of a Police Force.

Resolution 3—To provide amount of appropriations necessary.

Resolution 4—To recommend consideration of Common Council of an ordinance regulating building lines on the streets of the City.

Voted—A non-partisan Police Force to be uniformed and to consist of four men, a captain and three patrol or policemen,—Captain to get $750 per annum; patrolmen, $45 per month. That was amended and it was passed that patrolmen be paid $52.50 per month.

January 20, 1890. Electric Light Company to furnish 60 lights for not less than 300 nights per year from dusk to 12 o'clock midnight, cost of same not to exceed $75 per light and to be located and strung as the Common Council may direct.

February 3, 1890—Committee on Electric Lights—After an interview with the Committee of the Rockville Gas Light Company and receiving a proposition from Westinghouse Electric Company to light the streets upon a five-year contract at $75.50 per lamp, recommended asking local firm to meet latter offer.

# MAYOR SAMUEL FITCH

1890-1891

The streets of Rockville were illuminated by the electric lights on Sunday evening, January 5, 1890, a short time previous to "moon up." Streets were crowded with people to enjoy the transformation scene. This was actually for demonstration purposes only, for the voters had not yet given their approval. The terms submitted by the Rockville Gas Light Company—$80 per light from dusk to 12 o'clock—seemed excessive to the city fathers. The Westinghouse Electric Comupany offered to do approximately the same work for $75.50 per lamp per year provided they were given a five-year contract.

In spite of the lower offer it was decided to do business with the home company, who had already put up the poles, lamps, and wirings. Further negotiations were held with the local concern which resulted in a satisfactory agreement.

Then further developments occurred. On March 7, 1890, a number of merchants met to make plans for lighting their stores through another local concern. One hundred shares of the stock were taken at the meeting at $25 per share.

On the first of May, this group petitioned the City Council for the right "to erect poles and place wires in and through the streets for the purpose of supplying electric light and power"—through the Merchants' Electric Light and Power Company, George F. Talcott, president. But on June 5 no action was taken at the meeting, and the matter was laid on the table.

July 27, 1890—Voted not to give the Salvation Army privilege to stand on the streets to hold meetings.

September 22, 1890—The need of a new lock-up was reflected in Captain Cady's report. The number of lodgers, tramps, and men out of work finding a place to sleep was 252: number of arrests 157, drunks 95.

November 4, 1890—A Committee of three was appointed to see if corrections or revisions of the city charter should be submitted for action at the next session of the legislature.

February 12, 1891—Voted that the Selectmen be a committee to confer with the New England Telephone Company for the pur-

pose of having a telephone located in police headquarters or in town clerk's office for city business.

February 9, 1891—Voted to dispose of the old hand engine known as "The Fire King," upon such terms as seem best in the interest of the city.

Mayor Fitch announced in his second annual message January, 1891, that the town had voted to turn over the fire department to the city. He expressed a desire for electric lights in the outlying districts, and wisely remarked that new enterprises invite new investments.

September 15, 1891—The Council had difficulty in getting a quorum at the meeting on Tuesday. Finally it was secured by sending a hack for Councilman Allen, who arrived a little after the appointed hour of 8 o'clock, when the meeting was called to order by the Mayor. Similarly, because of the absence of a quorum on Monday, September 28, no meeting of the aldermen could be held.

October 15, 1891—F. I. Hartenstein presented a bill for $2.32. Alderman Tingier explained it was for engraving several pairs of handcuffs for the police department. A pair had been stolen and some method of marking those remaining seemed necessary. The bill was ordered paid.

The very year Rockville became a city the American people were swept with a consuming passion which left them with little time for money or anything else. Many theaters were closed, consumption of cigars fell off at the rate of a million a day, trade in pianos dropped 50%. The distraction? America had discovered the bicycle, and everybody was making the most of the new freedom it brought. Now he could go where he wanted, when he wanted, at a speed many times faster than he could walk, and without the need of horse or public conveyance.

The 1890's were the years of bicycle popularity, but what ingenuity marked the beginning! In 1891 we learn H. W. Loomis of Southington is making a unicycle that he thinks will astonish the world. The large wheel is to be 9 feet in diameter and inside of this an arrangement much like a common safety wheel runs. The plan seems to be like that of a man walking inside of a big hoop, his weight when thrown forward revolving the whole. The steering wheel is in the rear, and is worked by rods, like a boat rudder, from the handle bar. The machine is expected to travel a mile a minute.

# MAYOR WILLIAM V. MCNERNEY

## 1892-1894

## THE CITY STREETS IN DARKNESS

William V. McNerney became mayor at a favorable time financially with a balance on hand of $8,039.91, no outstanding notes, and very few local bills to pay. It is alarming, however, to discover that during a portion of the year 1892 the city was in darkness, solely because the estimates for the fiscal year ending November 15, 1893, could not be exceeded except by a two-thirds vote of the Common Council and the sanction of the voters at a special meeting called for that purpose. This the Council very dexterously avoided. The executive could not in any way bind the City in excess of the appropriation, so they refused to sign the bills for street lighting until such bills came within the appropriations. In his day, Mayor McNerney dared to call the system of local taxation antiquated, unjust, and extortionate, a system which he claimed discouraged the coming of new industries to Rockville.

On Monday, July 11, 1892, the Aldermen passed a resolution to shut off the street lights on July 15 until such time as a satisfactory agreement could be made with the Electric Light Company. The rates had been raised from $75 per lamp to $80 per lamp, and a city meeting had voted not to pay the advanced rate. Following concurrence of the Council, the lights were shut off Saturday night, July 16, 1892, and the city was in darkness.

No longer did the bright rays of the electric lights shed a radiance on the street! Now on a dark night, there was nothing to prevent a man from running into hitching posts and trees or bunting his head into that of another benighted pedestrian.

The streets of Rockville remained in darkness, and on September 19, 1892, the committee on lighting reported: Whereas the Rockville Gas and Electric Light Company demand $80 per lamp for a period of 300 nights per year, running from dusk until 12 o'clock midnight and other companies will furnish the same service under bond for $70 per lamp—Committee's conclusion is: City must adopt one of three courses—

1. Own and control its own electric light plant.
2. Pay the Rockville Gas & Electric Light Company what they demand.
3. Remain in darkness.

A discussion on the electric light problem at the October meeting was getting very lively when the fire alarm rang. The crowd concluded that the question of the lights could wait and made a rush for the door. The meeting adjourned without action.

October 3, 1892—No quorum being present, the meeting was adjourned.

At the meeting on October 4, 1892, Alderman Fahey introduced a resolution—Resolved that the Electric Light Committee be and are hereby instructed to make such arrangements with the Rockville Gas Light Company as will have the streets lighted until further arrangements can be made in accordance with the city votes of October 1, 1892. This was adopted.

October 17, 1892—Alderman Doane introduced a resolution—Resolved that a special city meeting shall be called not later than November 15, 1892, to see whether the city will authorize the Common Council to appropriate a sum not exceeding $25,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing of an electric light plant, including the necessary land and buildings, said plant to be owned and operated in accordance with a vote of said city October 4, 1892. This was adopted.

On November 21, 1892, Resolved that the Mayor be and is hereby instructed to insert in the warning a call for $25,000 for the purchase and installing an electric light plant, including the necessary land and buildings, also an estimate of $6,000 for the necessary running expenses of said plant or so much as may be necessary, not exceeding $6,000.

Also an estimate of $6,000 to defray the expense of lighting the streets of the city under such arrangements as may be made with the present Rockville Gas Company to light said streets with arc lights of 1200 candlepower at $75.00 per year for 300 nights in the year.

Prior to the discussion on lights it was decided to take action against New York and New England Railroad Company to compel the company to construct the Railroad bridge over the proposed highway from Spring Street to Grand Avenue in accordance with the order of the Railroad Commission.

January 16, 1893—A communication was received from Wm. H. Marigold, mayor of Bridgeport, to ascertain if the City of Rockville would be willing to act with other cities in an endeavor to have laws passed by the legislature relative to Electric Street Rail-

ways to secure rights to cities which they do not now possess. A committee was appointed.

July 24, 1893—The proposals of the New Gaynor Electric Company of Louisville, Kentucky, to furnish and install a Three Circuit Electric Fire Alarm System were considered and the Mayor was asked to execute contract of $2,495 for four circuits instead of three.

August 7, 1893—Voted to contract with trustees of the Methodist Society for the use of said Society's church tower and bell for fire alarm purposes:

1. The city to guarantee the bell from all damage by use of the striker thereon.
2. The city will pay any increased insurance rate, imposed by reason of Fire Alarm wire being connected with said building.
3. The city to pay said Society the annual rental of $30.00.

August 17, 1893—Report of High School building—new structure completed, commodious, complete and architecturally handsome.

Of local interest is the fact that Connecticut Legislature in the year 1893 passed a statute giving libraries established under certain conditions an annual gift of books valued at $100.

## MAYOR E. STEVENS HENRY

1894-1896

PERIOD OF DEPRESSION

The fifth year of Rockville's municipal history found a young and growing city confronted with a season of business depression which paralyzed local industries. Fortunately, the capable E. Stevens Henry was elected mayor in 1894. He devoted much thought to practical reforms: the improvement of streets; electric roads; the need for economy; unjust taxation.

As to streets, this is his timely suggestion:

> "It appears eminently proper that the names of men and of families associated with the history and building up of Rockville should be honored, and their memories preserved to future generations by using their names to

designate our streets, parks, and public places. There are several objectionable street names, and short streets which lead nowhere, forming a cul-de-sac but styled 'avenues.'"

A firm believer in the electric roads, he said:

"The steam road has been a good thing for Rockville, but from it we failed to get what we anticipated, what we paid for and what we had a right to expect. In the construction of the electric roads lies Rockville's opportunity."

As to the depression he urged:

"It shall be our endeavor as the selected guardians of the public interest to use our best efforts to reduce public expenses to a minimum; not forgetting that the citizens of Rockville, whose servants we are, have the right at all times to require of us a careful conservation of their interests, and that most especially will they during the present period of public stress hold us to a strict accountability for the use and disposal of public funds."

As to taxation he said:

"The time cannot be far distant when our people will demand a reassessment of all taxable property upon a just and equitable basis. Of many things needful for the well-being of Rockville, none are of more importance than Tax Reform."

Progress was made in matters of transportation according to Mayor Henry:

January 17, 1895—"Petitions for electric street railways are as plentiful as apples in a good year. They have entirely changed the situation. The steam roads are opposing them in every way as dangerous competitors, especially along the shorter suburban lines, where they parallel the steam roads. In some instances the electrics have taken the whole traffic from the steam roads."

January 21, 1895—The City Seal.

Alderman Heath presented the following resolution:

Whereas, in the early days of the City government a seal was adopted which at the time was deemed sufficent as a seal, but lacking in artistic design and

Whereas the Knowles Loom Works of Worcester, Massachu-

setts, having had brought to their notice the rather crude design of a loom as represented on our city seal, have seen fit to tender the city a design of a Loom with the background of our hills and Lake Snipsic.

Resolved that the design be accepted and adopted as the corporate seal of the City of Rockville, and the city clerk procure a die of said design for use as the seal of the City.

Resolved that the Knowles Loom Works be tendered the thanks of the Common Council for their good will towards our city as shown by the gift of said design.

January 31, 1895—Announcement made that the railroad is now in the hands of the receivers.

July 25, 1895—Petition for Badge.

Petition presented by city reporters asking city to designate a badge which shall be worn by reporters and which shall be recognized by Fire Department and Police as sufficient authority to admit them within the lines at any fire.

September 26, 1895—The Park Association gives the city title to Talcott Park, under the conditions under which it is now held by the park association.

1895—This year an important change was made from separate to joint meetings of aldermen and council with the sanction of the Legislature.

An ordinance regulating bicycle riding was passed: "No one shall ride unless such bicycle has a bicycle bell attached to it. He shall have full and absolute control. Fine not more than $15 nor less than $1.00."

It was decided at the same meeting to enforce more strictly the ordinance in regard to the erection of buildings.

March 19, 1896—The lockup according to last report had 308 lodgers against 671 in the same time last year.

## MAYOR EDWIN LANSING HEATH

1896-1900

FREE POSTAL DELIVERY

Edwin L. Heath became mayor in 1896, continuing in office until 1900. He filled out the unexpired term of E. Stevens Henry, who was elected as Congressman. Evidently liability insurance

companies were not very aggressive then, for the mayor had difficulty in obtaining bonds for the city officials. "It has come to my notice," so the mayor's message runs, "that there is a growing difficulty to get even good friends to act as surety on bonds of this or any other character."

A proposition from the Hartford, Manchester, and Rockville Tramway Company offering electric service between Rockville and Hartford was received and favorably considered.

In 1897 Eugene V. Debs spoke in the Opera House to 500 people.

January 6, 1898—First meeting of Council of 1898—Mayor Heath expressed the desire for good macadam roads for city, and permanent road-building, little by little. Hammond Park at the junction of Main, Union and Elm Streets, after grading and stocked down in the early spring, will prove it was good judgment to save this as a green spot rather than throw it out as roadway.

Standpipe on McLean's Mill completed.

The advisability was discussed of erecting a building in the rear of the Memorial building to provide not only for the Fire Department apparatus but also room for Police Department and City Government.

Congratulations were extended to Charles Phelps on his election as Attorney General, the first to fill that office in the State.

January 23, 1896—Meeting of the Corporators of the Rockville Public Library held in Los Amigos Hall last Friday. The $10,000 legacy left by George Maxwell was accepted—$12,600 with interest—and a check of $10,000 from the town of Vernon was presented and accepted.

"In view of the fact that the postmaster general has ordered free delivery in the City of Rockville to take effect April 1, 1896, and the systematic numbering of all the houses within the city limits is essential to such free delivery, the Court of Common Council hereby authorizes Lewis M. Jones to do such numbering under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Works, the said numbering to be done at the expense of the property owners and without cost to the city."

Rockville became connected with outside world by trolley on Saturday morning, January 8, 1898. Scheduled for 6:45, the first car was run by the Hartford, Manchester and Rockville Tramway Company. It was a never-to-be-forgotten day in the town's his-

tory and marked a new epoch in transportation. Owing to a delay in cutting away the ice at West Street which had formed in the flangeways of the rails, the trolley seemed a long time coming, but when it actually arrived, ten minutes late, there was genuine rejoicing. Two extra cars were run on Sunday, the 9th, to accommodate the rush. Charles Mensig paid the first nickel. The whole town went trolley wild—the line was popular, the fare nominal. For two years people had talked trolley, trolley, trolley. Now the trolley was actually here.

The Company made its fare for school children three cents from Rockville to Talcottville, consequently about all those attending the Rockville school from that section traveled trolley *de luxe*.

In January, 1906, the New York, New Haven and Hartford Company assumed control, having purchased the road from the Shaw syndicate.

Hartford, Manchester and Rockville Tramway Company schedule:

First car leaving Rockville for Hartford at 6:45 a.m. and thereafter hourly until 9:45 p.m. The car leaving Rockville at 10:45 p.m. will go to the barn at South Manchester, as will the theater car which will arrive in Rockville about 12:15 a.m.

First car for Rockville in the morning will leave Hartford at 7:15 a.m. Cars will leave thereafter hourly until 9:15 p.m. There will also be a car which will leave Hartford for Rockville at 10:45 p.m. if the performances at the theaters have closed. If not, this car will wait for passengers coming from the theaters.

The trolley affected the railroad immediately, for on January 17, the 7:30 p.m. train for Hartford on the Rockville branch made its regular run to Vernon (4 miles) without a single passenger. The only persons in the cars were Conductor Henry Vanness, the brakeman, and baggage master and express manager, Wm. Dowling.

January 20, 1898—Senator T. A. Lake secured internal revenue collectorship Thursday—a Rockville man.

Thursday, January 27, 1898—Methodist parsonage debt paid. In 1889 parsonage property, a commodious dwelling at 91 Union Street, purchased at $3,800—a free gift to the trustees of the Church. The perseverance of the Parsonage Society was shown in a celebration on Friday night in the vestry of the church.

Thursday, February 3, 1898—Worst snow storm since the

great blizzard of March, 1888. Snow began early Monday morning. At night the storm increased in fury. Tuesday morning found streets piled high.

June 9, 1898—The Council talk again of consolidation of the city and town.

In 1898 the New England Railroad is absorbed by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

October 6, 1898—Town voted to abolish the bounty on foxes. The town paid $28 for dead foxes last year.

November 14, 1898—Police Captain Cady's report for the year showed with unblinking accuracy 138 arrests, 981 lodgers as against 554 last year.

Heavy snowstorm a day or two after Thanksgiving, 1898. Storm began early Saturday morning, flakes descended in a lazy manner and kept it up without abatement until late Sunday afternoon.

In his January, 1899, message Mayor Heath called attention to the need of a comprehensive system of culverts designed to keep the surface water which collects on our streets during heavy storms from running directly into the canals and ponds of our factories and mills.

Mayor Heath declared with emphasis:

> "The trolley service we have had for a year, and have found it a necessary evil, one of those evils we are compelled to forgive; for which we must acknowledge it has grievously hurt some of our mercantile lines of trade, but it has at the same time provided a way for cheap travel for the masses, and a source of pleasure to nearly all in the summer time. The report of the Captain of Police noted that the number of lodgers, not all, but most all, are tramps, last year over the year 1897 was 430, a gain of nearly 78 per cent. This increase is too large, and if the Police Commission or the Common Council can devise some means of lessening the number of tramps who come and go, the residents, especially the female portion, will appreciate the reduction of 'weary wayfarers.'"

In that year of 1899 an appropriation of $800 was made for a bathhouse in the city for the "benefit of those who have not the facilities of a modern bathroom."

Tuesday, November 29, 1899—A town vote rescinded the vote on October 2, when consolidation of schools was carried. The total vote 546 of which 399 in favor of rescinding, 147 against, majority 252 for rescinding. Polls closed at 5 p.m.

December 8, 1899—Taxpayers cut down the appropriation for the Police Department $4,800 next year. The adjourned meeting was one of the liveliest in years—the biggest city meeting on record. Probably 700 in hall. The large number of small taxpayers, who feel the burden of taxation severely, have been agitating for a year for a cut in city expenses, and attended the meeting in force, prepared to vote solidly for retrenchment.

Three thousand dollars asked for steam road roller. Retrenchers promptly voted this down. Appropriation was $6,750 instead of $9,750 asked by the Council. Police Department next.

It was moved that the item of salaries for Police Department be made $2,000 instead of $3,800 as asked for. Carried. The force to be two men—a captain and one patrolman, the former to do day duty and the latter night duty.

December 19, 1899—Monday the 18th—Mayor's last meeting. He thanked the Council for their uniform courtesy. For the past 10 years, he had been coming to the Council Chamber every other Monday night. He had tried to do his duty.

Banquet December 27, Wednesday, at Rockville House in honor of retiring Mayor Heath who had served for four years.

Friday, October 19, 1900—200 citizens assembled at Turn Hall Wednesday to discuss question of revoking the City Charter.

## MAYOR WILLIAM H. LOOMIS

1901-1904

### THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY APPEARS

William H. Loomis was both mayor and dentist, with an office on the second floor of the Henry Building. He came to Rockville in 1868 and followed the practice of his profession.

For the first time in the city's politics the Social Democratic Party waged an active campaign and polled 227 votes; the regular Democrats 270. In his first annual message, he reported the completion of the Bath House, "which was opened for use during the summer and proved an unqualified success."

The mayor was not quite satisfied with the city charter. In

copying from other charters certain errors had crept in which he desired to have corrected. His questing imagination and lively pen brought results.

In this same message he stated: "A considerable interest and close observation for several years has led me to certain conclusions on the subject of our roads. We are pursuing "a penny wise and pound foolish" method in our present plan of construction and repairs, doing the work only to have it speedily undone by the first severe storm." He also asked that adequate provision be made to take care of the storm water by construction of sufficiently large culverts.

March 12, 1902—A petition asking Council to take necessary means to compel Rockville Water & Aqueduct Company to furnish pure and wholesome water for domestic purposes.

On the 20th of March, 1902, the city at special meeting appropriated $15,000 for the construction of a storm water sewer.

June 18, 1902—A petition from the D.A.R. asking that the name of Central Park be changed to Winslow Park. The petition stated that about 1847 Rev. Horace Winslow, then minister of the First Congregational Church, by zealous effort, and assisted by other inhabitants in said city, converted the tract of land now known as Central Park from a barren waste into a sightly and beautiful park. The proposed change of name would do honor to the minister. The petition was adversely received.

Captain W. H. Cady reported the number of arrests for 1902, 130, and suggested the appointment of a captain and three men for more efficient police protection: a captain to be on duty during the day, two men on night duty, and a third man day and night, under certain circumstances.

Three timely suggestions at the June meeting were—the placing of a few settees on Central Park; care of our shade trees; and that garbage disposal be provided for by the City, collecting twice a week.

## THE COMING OF THE AUTOMOBILE

The danger of this new method of transportation is pointed out in a clever editorial in the Rockville "Leader" of March 2, 1900 —"the question of the safety of the people when the electric, gasolinic and kerosenic vehicles shall get to running loose on our streets is one worthy of serious consideration. In other cities ex-

perience proves they are capable of cutting up about as many capers as the bucking broncho or the traditional mule. From six to nine miles an hour according to circumstances and places is about the legal speed for a horse, but these inanimate roadsters it has been found are capable of getting over the ground at the rate of twenty miles per hour or even more."

The evolution of the automobile was slow. It is recorded on Augus 5, 1902—"Christopher Spencer, of Windsor, was in town yesterday with his new automobile. It is built in the form of a covered delivery wagon such as is used by dry goods stores in large cities. It has wooden wheels with solid rubber tires. The propelling power is steam generated by Kerosene burners. The boiler is tubular and will stand a pressure of 3,000 pounds to the square inch. The safety valve works at 300 pounds pressure so there is no danger of an explosion. The automobile recently made the trip from New York to Hartford in one day at an average speed of 10 miles an hour."

A few years later, Snipsic Lake proved popular to hundreds of people to see a Matthewson automobile on the ice. Francis J. Regan in his new car took several spins from what is known as the "island" up to the Siegel Place. He went at a lively rate of speed and seemed to enjoy the sport immensely. Seated with him in the automobile was his chauffeur. Four or five boys were hanging on to the rear of the auto.

Regan was the first man ever to venture on the ice of Snipsic Lake in an automobile. To hold the weight of an automobile and two men the ice must have been remarkably thick and solid.

The first automobile race in America was held on Thanksgiving Day, 1895, from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois, and return. The average speed was 5.05 miles per hour for the 52-mile run. One driver in the race had to drop out from sheer exhaustion.

## MAYOR GEORGE FORSTER

1904-1911

INTER-URBAN SERVICE INAUGURATED

George Forster had the record for the longest period of service as mayor of Rockville, 1904-11 and 1928-1929. Throughout those ten years he was deeply interested in the installation of a sewage disposal plant. He started a new system of bookkeeping, aided by

city clerk Keency. What a faculty he had of congratulating every department of the Council! It adds to our stature to read that in 1910 the community was thoroughly law-abiding: "The City is free from vice and there are few disturbances." You may add to the record already mentioned two others—at his inauguration Mayor Forster gave the shortest message ever deilvered on such an occasion and the briefest report at the close of a term of office.

1904—An appropriation of $700 to repair the walk on the middle road, the appropriation same as previous year being adopted.

In his annual message to the Council of 1905 the Mayor recommended Municipal ownership and favored city control of the lighting plant. Said he: "Public ownership of public utilities has been the dream of the people. Macadam roads should be built."

1906—Sewage Disposal Plant now finished.

1907—Death of Captain Cady of Police Department announced. He was a kind and loyal commander and a true friend of Rockville.

## NEW METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION

On Sunday, January 13, 1908, the Inter-urban service between Rockville and Hartford was inaugurated. It was not the weather for angels, and the traffic was rather light. The universal verdict, however, appeared to be that the cars ran smoothly and that the new method of transportation would be a success.

The first car to leave the Rockville Depot over the electrified steam tracks pulled out at 7 o'clock in the morning in charge of Conductor P. T. Beaucar and motorman Edward M. Thrall. Conductor Whetstone of the Highland Division acted as pilot. George Cleveland, of Dobsonville, who boarded the car at Rockville, had the honor of being the first passenger. He rode as far as Vernon. Mrs. John P. Cameron was the first woman passenger. The fare from Rockville to Hartford was 25 cents, paid in five installments.

Grand concert by Philip Sousa and his Band at the Town Hall Thursday afternoon, September 9, 1909.

Thursday, November 2, 1911—Mayor Forster spoke of the natural advantages of Rockville; its high altitude, bracing air, pure water, a healthful city. But it won't always be thus, if such lax methods as prevail in some sections of the city are allowed to continue. Garbage, if left exposed, is a breeder of disease and a menace. There ought to be some system of collection and dis-

posal. He quoted the charter giving Council power. Householders could furnish cans in which to deposit garbage. Somebody should be employed to cart it away. The Council voted $1,000 for health program.

Rockville should have an all-night street lighting service. Social events; doctors called; persons hastening for a physician; in time of fire all would benefit. Let's have all-night and every night electric lights.

Street lighting for streets 1910—$7,300, 80 arc lamps, 55 incandescent lamps burning every night in the year, except moonlight nights until 1 a.m.—increase would cost $8,300. Moon doesn't always shine when the almanac says so.

1911—Common Council of 1911 is now launched. After much voting, Orren O. West was elected president of the Council.

For the post office, the Government wanted the Yost property (Jacob Yost) at corner of Park and School Streets. The Yost property ideal location for a federal building. It is a corner lot, 104 ft. front and 160 ft. deep. Yost built up a fine property, laying out $17,000. He lived there many years. The property formerly belonged to the Rock and was the Mill Boarding House. It was later bought by Dr. Stiles. Mr. Yost acquired it from Dr. Stiles.

Thursday, July 13, 1911—Shirtwaist Council sacrificed dignity for comfort last Tuesday.

Rock Mill shut down. Disagreement between owners. About 200 employees out of work. Closed January 7 to Wednesday, March 8, 1911.

## MAYOR LYMAN T. TINGIER

### 1912-1913

### A NEW ENGINE HOUSE

During the mayoralty of Lyman Twining Tingier—1912-1913 the Fire Department occupied much of the Council's time. A fire destroyed the Fitton Fire Engine Company's House on Prospect Street, a new engine house was built at a cost of $10,000, and a new steam fire engine and equipment had to be purchased. For twenty years the need of public playgrounds had been felt because of the danger involved through electric cars and motor vehicles. Mayor Tingier had the capacity and the inclination to

think deeply on public affairs, and rendered notable service as Lieutenant-Governor of the State.

March 26, 1912—The following was approved and accepted by the Council—"I, Lyman T. Tingier, mayor of said city, believing that the Health Officer of said city should receive an annual salary of $125, and that the same is a reasonable compensation, therefore do hereby fix and establish said salary at said sum, and the same to be paid quarterly, and to commence on the first day of April, 1912, all being subject, however, to the approval of the common council."

During the year 1912, there were permanent improvements—the new engine house, at a cost of $10,000, the Hale Street wall $1,200, and the sludge beds $1,200. The fire which destroyed the Fitton Fire Engine Company's house on Prospect Street compelled the city to expend about $7,000 in the purchase of a new steam fire engine, hose wagon, hose and other supplies. Built on Prospect Street, it was accomplished on an 8-mill tax and included the purchase of a new steam fire engine and other fire fighting equipment.

The City Charter again! The time has come to revise or radically amend it. Unsuitable now—there is no need of a council of two bodies.

During Mayor Tingier's administration an ordinance prohibiting coasting on the streets was repealed, and the regulation of coasting placed in hands of the mayor. Should not be allowed on streets where coasters cross a trolley track or where there is heavy traffic.

Collection of garbage introduced within certain limits.

December 15, 1912—Certain Ellington residents petitioned General Assembly to annex a portion of the town of Ellington contiguous to the city: annex a portion north of the city line as far as the Butcher Road and East to the Tolland line. There is a desire on the part of the same residents to become a part of this municipality because of the many improvements of which they are now deprived—fire protection and sewer privileges.

The parcel post business at the Rockville Post Office started

off briskly on January 1, 1913, date of inauguration. The honor of mailing the first parcel fell to Mrs. Fred Siegfried. Total packages received 20, considered large as the office was closed in the afternoon (New Year's half holiday). Only two packages arrived in incoming mails.

Julius Rath, a man from Missouri walking around the world visited Rockville on New Year's Day, 1913. He was selected from 100 newsboys to walk 500,000 miles around the Globe in 18 years. He must neither beg nor borrow but must finish with $1,000 to his credit and a dog. He started on his long trip from St. Louis, Missouri, in 1897, and when he reached Rockville he had covered 495,000 miles and had worn out 441 pairs of shoes. He was entertained at the Rockville House on January 1, 1913.

July 15, 1913—A petition presented by Burpee Grand Army Post asking the Council to petition the War Department through Congressman Mahan for two regulation army artillery guns with carriages was on motion of Alderman Grist and accepted.

September 23, 1913—The following resolution was presented and adopted—"Resolved that the Mayor appoint a committee of six which shall include the Mayor and Corporation Counsel and four members of the Common Council to confer with the members of a committee appointed by the Water and Aqueduct Company to ascertain if the Company would sell to the City of Rockville their interest in said Company, and at what price."

December 30, 1913—The Street Lighting contract for a period of three years for all night, every night. Service was presented, approved and accepted.

Mayor Tingier called the attention again of the Council to the subject of public playgrounds, urging their support and that of the citizens, and asking that an appropriation be made. A public spirited citizen has offered to donate a part of the apparatus needed and by expenditure of about $400 we can begin. We owe the oncoming generation this small debt and believe that the sum required will be well invested.

Voted that band concerts be continued. An appropriation of $500 was made. The thousands who throng our streets to enjoy these entertainments attest their great popularity; they attract hundreds from outside to our city and are of benefit to our tradesmen.

It was announced that a flag pole is to be erected in Central Park instead of on the Memorial Building.

# MAYOR S. TRACY NOBLE

## 1914-1915

## A FORD VERSUS A HORSE

In the world-shaking year of 1914, S. Tracy Noble, remembered always as a strong temperance advocate, guided the city affairs as mayor. He found the Police Department greatly handicapped through the lack of patrolmen. In no uncertain tone of voice he declared, "One man during the day and three men during the night cannot properly look after the city." His second annual message indicates that there was an unusually large number of chimney fires, and property owners were urged to exercise more care.

February 24, 1914—Resolved that no policeman or supernumerary policeman shall be a member of the Fire Department on and after May 1, 1914.

March 10, 1914—"Resolved that any extra duty performed by any member of the Fire Department by order of the Chief or assistant chief shall be paid at the following rate—thirty cents per hour between six p.m. and six a.m., and twenty cents per hour between six a.m. and six p.m."

May 5, 1914—A petition of the Baptist Church Society "to raise their church four feet and build cement steps to sidewalk on Union Street." This was granted.

May 20, 1915—Superintendent of Streets, F. R. Rau, asked for a second hand automobile promising that if the city would purchase one he would run it and take care of it without further expense to the city.

June 9, 1915—A special meeting voted against an appropriation of $400 for a Ford car. Nobody spoke against it, but the vote was 54 in favor and 74 against it. Rau's horse had played out because of so much business and so much territory to cover. His salary was $900 a year. Now his enthusiasm was perceptibly blurred, and the question was dropped.

The committee appointed by a former administration to frame a revision of our Charter for submission to our people, procured copies of revised charters from different cities, east and west, from which a charter was drawn, not entirely satisfactory to all the members, yet all agreed it was better adapted to our city than the one we were working under, and presented it for consideration at a

special city meeting. There were so many opinions regarding its several features that the Committee, having no desire to force a charter not acceptable to the public, dropped the matter, excepting that portion relating to sidewalks, which seemed to meet with approval, whereby the city at a special meeting warned for the purpose could vote to pay one-third the expense of sidewalks, the abutter to pay two-thirds. This was passed by the legislature, signed by the Government, and is now a part of our Charter.

The Home Rule Bill passed by the Legislature giving enlarged powers to a city was read.

1915—The Chamber of Commerce and the Rockville-Willimantic Lighting Company have made a generous proposition to the city in offering to furnish and install a row of lights in the center of the city, the city to pay for the lighting only. This will add to the beauty of the center of the city, and we are grateful.

## MAYOR JOHN P. CAMERON

1916-1920

PERIOD OF BIG STORMS

At the beginning of his administration, Mayor John P. Cameron (1916-1920) smilingly announced the facts: "For the first time in five years our income has exceeded our disbursements. We have $1,719.61 on hand, in spite of the fact that we have had two of the most disastrous storms in the history of the city, causing many washouts." He expressed gratitude to the Chamber of Commerce for their part in the installation of new lights around Central Park and on Middle Road.

He found pleasure in announcing the gift of a tract of land on Fox Hill for a park or playground purposes.

We are reminded of the First World War experiences when we read that in 1918 the city faced the problems of material and labor shortages. Said Mayor Cameron: "It has been next to impossible to get oil, being necessary to get priority orders from the Government."

And memory is stirred when one reads of the fearful epidemic of influenza keenly felt in Rockville at that time.

Thursday, October 10, 1918—Rockville High School building is now taken over by a Citizens' Committee and transformed into an emergency hosiptal for the care of the hundreds of persons ill

with Spanish influenza. In less than 24 hours after the plan was decided, a score of patients were there. Pneumonia cases were given fresh air treatment. The Committee secured a large army tent and it was erected on Talcott Park. The large lawn at the rear of Dr. Rockwell's property was offered and accepted.

October 31, 1918—Hospital closed doors at Rockville High School Tuesday, 157 patients entered during three weeks of epidemic, there were 23 deaths. Dr. W. B. Bean came to counsel.

The Public Works Committee was authorized on September 19, 1916, to engage the services of an Engineer, with a view to ascertaining the amount of sidewalks, curbing and gutters on each street of the city that required to be put in good condition, and to enable the Committee to make an intelligent report when the sidewalk question should come up for definite action.

On January 3, 1917, a Petition to increase the Public Works employees from 24c to 30c per hour was not granted.

Friday evening, April 20, 1917, it was voted to appropriate the sum of $15,000 for new sidewalks, curbing and gutters.

May 2, 1917, it was voted to lay sidewalks, curbing and gutters on the following streets:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| West Main Street, north side | 1658 | lineal | feet |
| West Main Street, south side | 303 | " | " |
| Brooklyn Street, north side | 390 | " | " |
| Vernon Avenue, west side | 80 | " | " |
| West Street, east side | 605 | " | " |
| Union Street, south side | 2540 | " | " |
| Union Street, north side | 1270 | " | " |
| Prospect Street, north side | 2685 | " | " |
| East Main Street, south side | 1655 | " | " |
| Orchard Street, west side | 300 | " | " |

Contractor National Concrete Company of New Haven, Connecticut. Work completed in the Fall of 1918.

Sidewalks, curbing and gutters costs, August 1, 1918, total cost $5,431.70. Cost to City $2,092.30. Cost to Abutters $3,339.40.

The entire cost of installing sidewalks, curbing and gutters abutting the several local factory properties was through the efforts of Colonel Francis Regan paid by the factory owners.

January 28, 1919, Mayor Cameron announced the appointment of the following Memorial Tree Committee: Col. Francis J. Regan, A. Leroy Martin, Horace A. Deal, Alderman Elmer F. Osborne and the City Clerk, John N. Keeney.

George B. Milne became Chief Fire Commissioner.

May 3, 1919—Welcome Home Celebration and planting of Gingko trees at Maple Street School grounds. Governor Holcomb attended.

At 12 o'clock midnight Thursday, January 15, 1920, poor John Barleycorn was interred by the Government of the United States, although there are many mourners. No bells, no flowers, just plain water hereafter. During the summer there are more on the water wagon than there are wagons to take care of them.

Thursday, May 4, 1920—Thinking of remodelling the Gaynor property on Prospect Street for a hospital, a wooden building some 80 years old. Some people are for the Henry site; doctors favor it.

March 5, 1920, brought a great blizzard.

March 25, 1920—There was a wild celebration when the "lost child" returned after seven weeks' absence. Suspended traffic due to storm, which started last Tuesday. A force of men employed by the trolley company supplemented by 100 men and boys from Broad Brook and Ellington helped in re-opening roads.

## MAYOR FREDERICK G. HARTENSTEIN

1920-1922

### THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT IN EFFECT

Quite a little excitement was aroused when in the city election of 1920 the vote was so close as to call for a recount. The candidates were John P. Cameron and Frederick Hartenstein.

Attorney Thomas F. Noone represented Mr. Frederick G. Hartenstein and Attorney Charles Phelps represented Mr. John P. Cameron in the breath-taking court proceedings. The sealed ballot boxes from each of the four wards were placed in the custody of the city clerk, John N. Keeney, by the court, who appointed the following counters to re-examine the protested votes: Parley B. Leonard, William A. Kuhnly, Frederick J. Cooley, John N. Keeney. It was the first and only recount in the city's history.

The original count had given Hartenstein 641 and Cameron 643. The recount changed the figures to Hartenstein 628, and Cameron 624. Consequently, Judge Maltbie declared the person of Frederick G. Hartenstein "the rightful elected Mayor of the City of Rockville." For two years (1920-1922) Mayor Hartenstein rendered efficient and friendly service.

It was the first election at which women voted throughout the entire United States and the one in which Harding was elected President. The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was declared in effect on August 26, 1920.

Council approved of Daylight Saving Time, April, 1921.

Princess Theater opened in November, 1922, in Turn Hall, on Village Street.

## MAYOR JOSEPH GRIST

1922-1923

PERIOD OF QUIET PROGRESS

Next came Joseph Grist as Mayor, 1922-23. A highly respected citizen, it was his task to direct through the Council plans for the development of Fox Hill, bequeathed to the city by the will of E. Stevens Henry for a park.

Special City Meeting March 18, 1922—It was decided that any voter in the town of Vernon be allowed to be heard.

March 31, 1922—A tract of land located on Fox Hill has been given as a park and pleasure grounds or as sites for strictly public buildings and grounds connected with the city and with it $25,000 for improving the said lands.

April 4, 1922—On motion of Councilman Neff, it was voted that the City Council go on record as being in favor of Daylight Saving Time.

At a town meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 1922, it was voted not to discontinue the Interurban service. This was a surprise vote. An accident just previous to the meeting involving trolley cars seemed to provide a strong reason for retaining the second line of communication. So in spite of much feeling that the Interurban was not a paying proposition the town voted to continue that service.

May 31, 1922—Two-thirds vote of all members of the Common Council, present and absent, decided that the City of Rockville appropriate the sum of $2,000 for playground equipment and physical instructors for the year 1922.

June 12, 1922—On motion of Councilman Kuhnly it was voted that the Common Council go on record as in favor of Sunday Baseball, and that the matter be taken up with Corporation Counsel to see if same can be allowed.

October 31, 1922—Voted that the City Clerk pay $998.00 to the treasurer of the Armistice Day Celebration Committee.

November 14, 1922—It was voted that the amounts appropriated for the Fourth of July celebration and the Armistice Day celebration be combined into a fund to be used as a permanent memorial for World War veterans, if these amounts were not desired for the purposes for which they were appropriated.

December 6, 1922—The petition of the manager of the Princess Theater asking permission to exhibit moving pictures on Sunday evenings from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. was granted.

1923—The Mayor commended the work of the schools, the office of Meat and Milk Inspector, the Lighting Committee for changing and improving the lighting system of the city, the satisfactory police department and the Fox Hill Park project.

The winter had a record for continuity of snow storms which began on November 28 and ended March 31, in a total of 34 storms.

## MAYOR JOHN P. CAMERON

1924-1927

### TRANSFORMING FOX HILL PARK

John P. Cameron returned to the Mayor's chair in 1924 and remained until 1928, thus serving the city in this capacity for a total of eight years. Improvements in the Fire Department, the installation of a siren in the center of the city, new traffic signals "so that speeding through the center may be reduced to a minimum," and a civic center of which Rockville may well be proud were among the accomplishments of this administration.

1924—With the closing of our city year of 1924, we find the finances in an extremely fine condition with a balance of cash on hand of $16,120.42.

Fox Hill Park has been completed so far as the money Mr. Henry gave the city will go. The committee has transformed this hill into one of the beauty spots of our State. There is still much to be done, and it is hoped that citizens will be liberal in appropriations for Park purposes. This park can be made self-supporting by the spending of but a little more money.

Mayor Cameron has faithfully served the city as—

| | |
|---|---|
| Mayor | 8 yrs |
| City Treasurer 1914-1915 | 2 " |
| City Assessor | 2 " |
| City Auditor | 2 " |
| | 14 years total |

## MAYOR GEORGE FORSTER

1928-1930

SCRUTINY OF THE BUDGET

For a term of two years (1928-1930) George Forster took up again the duties of the office of mayor. He had served as town tax collector and city treasurer, and through these experiences, he had adopted economy as his watchword. His advice was "all frills and innovations requiring the use of funds raised by taxation should be frowned upon." Closer scrutiny and rigid pruning of the city's budget must be resorted to if their citizens are to encourage additions to local industrial enterprises as well as by new ventures locating in this city.

During Mayor Forster's administration, he was surrounded by a City Council Staff composed of the leading citizens of the community, including David A. Sykes, George W. Hill, James A. Elliott, David Horgan, George Scheets, Orren C. West, John Herzog, S. Tracy Noble, Joseph Prichard, Alfred H. Hobro, City Treasurer Frank Farrenkopf and City Clerk John N. Keeney.

George Forster, after having served the City of Rockville as Mayor for 10 years was appointed Postmaster of Rockville, and later was elected for a term of four years as High Sheriff of Tolland County.

In 1928 work started in dismantling the trolley line between Rockville and Stafford Springs. The road was built at a cost of $1,000,000. It was abandoned because it no longer paid.

## MAYOR ALBERT E. WAITE

1930-1933

REMOVAL OF TROLLEY TRACKS

The first important action of the new mayor, Albert E. Waite, was to appoint a Tercentennial Committee, and plans developed

into a celebration worthy of Rockville. The mayor had served for years on the Common Council and had been trained in the city's leading manufacturing plant, and these avenues of work made him competent in his high office. The contest for the mayoralty was very close. He won by 47 votes. Albert E. Waite, a man of versatile talents, started to work at the age of 13, as an office boy in the New England Mill, and became very proficient in bookkeeping, accounting, etc. He served the Hockanum Mills faithfully for 51 years.

1930—The city has received gifts of three pieces of land from the Hockanum Mills Company, Mr. F. W. Swindells and the Standard Oil Company, permitting the improvement of three dangerous corners.

Among the improvements to the City has been the removal of the Lunch Cart from Main Street, 30 poles from various streets and the construction of a better athletic field at Henry Park.

1931—Removal of 1¼ miles of trolley tracks, ties, overhead wires and 76 poles from Windsor Avenue, West Street, Union, Park, School, Prospect, Main, Grove and Hale Streets has not only made our streets safer and our roads better but more sightly.

Another gift of land from the Hockanum Mills Company has made possible a greatly improved entrance to the New Springville Bridge at Spring Street.

1932—When in May it was found our income from State Corporation Tax was $5,959.03 instead of $31,000, the average of seven years previous, our various departmental committees met in June and cut the voted appropriations $20,000. This and further reductions in expenditures resulted in $89,928.06 spent instead of $116,417.50 voted, leaving an unspent balance of $26,489.44.

The Police Department suffered a loss when in September, 1932, Captain Stephen J. Tobin suddenly died—an officer of fine training and experience, as well as a man respected throughout our community. Officer Shea was appointed to succeed him.

Lighting Company gave a real service by increasing candle power equal to approximately 30% at no extra cost, as a result of conferences and agreements between our Lighting Committee and officers of Lighting Company.

On May 1, 1931, the sum of $15,000 was voted at the city meeting for the improved entrance to the city at the foot of Union Street.

The last trolley out on Sunday night, April 26, ended that kind

of transportation, and the Hartford and Rockville trolley service is now only a memory to the people of Rockville, and the trolley tracks are being removed.

On Monday, April 27, 1931, the new bus service between Rockville and Hartford went into effect. The running time between these two cities from the center of Rockville is 55 minutes instead of more than one hour as previously with the trolley service.

Until the new Hartford-Rockville State Highway is completed, the bus route will go over the regular trolley route to the center, proceed down Union Street to West Street, over West Street to West Main Street, back up West Main Street to Vernon Avenue and out Vernon Avenue through Vernon Center to Talcottville and then along the regular route to Hartford.

## MAYOR GEORGE SCHEETS

1934-1935

CONNECTICUT TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION

The net indebtedness of Rockville at the close of the fiscal year November 15, 1935, is $20,709.95. During Mayor Sheets' administration it was reduced $28,000.

When Scheets took office in 1934 the City's indebtedness was $41,368.17, in addition owed state $7,500 toward the cost of improving the entrance to Union Street which total bill was originally $15,000—a total indebtedness of $48,868.17.

Steered a steady course.

| | |
|---|---|
| In 1920 City's indebtedness | $139,069.48 |
| 1925 | 117,115.74 |
| 1930 | 86,693.46 |
| 1935 | 20,709.95 |

Rockville and Vernon opened its three-day celebration of the Connecticut Tercentenary, Thursday morning, September 12, 1935, when the library opened its exhibit of articles of historic interest. Streets were beautifully decorated, business houses and homes were arranged with flags and bunting.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday— | | Historic Exhibit at Public Library |
| | | Colonial and Military Ball at Town Hall |
| Friday— | 3:00 p.m. | Tercentenary Pageant at Sykes' Auditorium |
| | 3:00 | Program at East School. Overflow from Pageant |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Flower Show opens at Fitch Block |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Public Exercises at Sykes' Auditorium |
| Saturday— | 9:30 p.m. | Sports in center of city |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Mammoth Parade |
| | 3:30 p.m. | Drum Corps Contest in Center of City |

Three hundred years of progress in the Constitution of the State September 12, 13, 14, 1935. Founding of Hartford—1636.

George C. Scheets watched every expenditure and had the faculty of speaking plainly on matters of interest to the community. He kept his hand on the wheel during his administration. He made a thorough study of the charter. A reporter of a local paper listening to George Scheets' message at the annual meeting in 1934 was surprised to find that in the delivery of that message he glanced only once or twice at his prepared address.

1934—A garage was built on city lot on West Street to store the Road Roller, Sweeper and other city property. The amount being spent for rent for this purpose at the present time will pay for the garage in a few years.

1935—A large number of men whose wages were paid by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration have been employed in grading South Street, Grant Street, the filtration plant, and Henry Park. When this Park project is completed, there will be plenty of room for tennis courts, and any outdoor sports that may be wanted.

By using F.E.R.A. and W.P.A. labor and finding projects to employ them on, we are putting unemployed men to work, and keeping them off the Town Relief.

Mayor Scheets became First Selectman of the Town of Vernon in 1938.

## MAYOR CLAUDE A. MILLS

1936-1941

### DEDICATION OF WAR MEMORIAL

The most important event in the period of this administration was the erection and later the dedication of the War Memorial Tower on Fox Hill, made possible by the Fund appropriated by the City and Town, donations by a few public-spirited citizens, and an allotment by the Government as a WPA project. The city appropriated $7,978.52 toward the Memorial, dedicated on August 5, 1939.

Monday, January 6, 1936—Ex-Mayor Scheets administered the oath of office to Claude A. Mills.

May 19, 1936—Be it ordained by the Court of Common Council:

Any person who shall knowingly make a false complaint to the Police Department or any member thereof, and any person who shall give any false information with intent to deceive the officers of said department when making any complaint shall be fined not more than 25 dollars.

June 2, 1936—Voted that the Public Works Committee be authorized to have a blue spruce tree moved from the estate of Francis T. Maxwell to Central Park at a cost of $75.

September 8, 1936—Committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Police Captain Richard Shea, August 26—a man of sound judgment.

November 13, 1936—Voted that the city sponsor the proposed War Memorial project.

October 19, 1937—An ordinance concerning motion pictures and theatrical entertainments, such as are authorized and permitted on Sundays between the hours of 2 p.m. and 11 p.m. provided the sale of admission shall not exceed the regular afternoon and evening rates.

November 2, 1937—A delegation from the American Legion spoke in favor of establishing skating rinks in the city.

December 21, 1937—The Mayor appointed a Committee to draw up appropriate resolutions on the death of ex-Mayor A. E. Waite.

February 8, 1938—Nincteen regulations were adopted to govern the board of aldermen.

May 3, 1938—Ordinances regulating Peddlers, Itinerant Vendors and Junk Dealers were passed.

The year 1938 was a year of granted liquor licenses.

November 1, 1938—Voted that all lights around Central Park be lighted all night at an additional cost of $33 per year. Appropriate resolutions were passed on the departure of Parley B. Leonard, city official, first city clerk, eighteen years city treasurer, and in later years a citizen ready to help.

November 5, 1938—Voted the sum of $385 for American Band Concerts.

August 8, 1939—Voted that a committee of three confer with the Board of Selectmen to make arrangements for the care of the new Memorial Tower on Fox Hill.

August 22, 1939—Voted that the Ordinance Committee be authorized to draft an ordinance regarding the playing of "bingo,"

the term to be defined. The restrictions comprised thirteen sections.

January 16, 1940—Voted that Arthur Satryb be given permission to operate a roller skating rink at 6 Vernon Avenue on Sundays between the hours of two and five o'clock in the afternoon and between the hours of eight and ten in the evening.

July 16, 1940—"His Excellency the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States have both declared that our defense forces and their equipment are insufficient and inadequate to properly protect or defend our nation in these days of swift and shocking development which has forced every neutral nation in this uneasy world to look to its defense in the light of new factors.

Resolved that this honorable City Council of the City of Rockville in the State of Connecticut heartily commends and fully endorses the proposed new program and defense policy of the President, and sincerely urges all citizens of our city to encourage and support the President and his military and naval officials in their efforts to make our defenses invulnerable and our security absolute.

Further resolved that this resolution be given the proper publicity so that all unmarried male citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 may know that the Regular Army of the United States desires to fill existing vacancies to full peace time strength. We endorse the National Defense Program."

September 10, 1940—Mayor Mills announced that a public-spirited citizen had offered to have the trees on Fox Hill Park trimmed so that the tower could be seen from the center of the city at no cost to the city. Voted the offer be accepted with thanks.

November 5, 1940—An amendment to the ordinance concerning Police and Police Departments: The Police Department shall consist of one Chief of Police (being the mayor), one Captain, one Sergeant, and not less than two or more than ten supernumerary patrolmen.

December 3, 1940—The Mayor was authorized to receive and accept on behalf of the city a gift of $10,000 offered by one of its citizens to be used in the sound discretion of the city in the development of a so-called Recreation Center. The Council expressed itself as justly proud of the donor's interest in the community and of his high qualities of character as a citizen, his philanthropy and friendship.

February 11, 1941—Voted it shall be unlawful within the city limits without a written permit issued and signed by the Mayor for any person to use or discharge any sling shot, air rifle, BB Gun or similar device. Any person violating shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than $25 for each offense.

It shall be unlawful within the limits of the city of Rockville to use mechanical loud speakers or amplifiers on trucks or other moving vehicles for advertising or other purposes without a specific license therefore from the Chief of Police of said city.

August 12, 1941—Voted that the sum of $400 be expended from the contingency appropriation before the close of the present fiscal year for the rental of voting machines.

August 26, 1941—An ordinance to prevent the using of radio receiving sets or other devices for the producing or reproduction of sound so as to cause unnecessary and harmful noise. The ordinance consisted of three sections.

Voted that the Public Works Committee be authorized to attend to the numbering of houses on the new streets on which mail delivery service has been promised.

The Mayor in his valedictory message of 1941 expressed regret for the resignation from office of Fire Chief George B. Milne. His continuous and loyal service for a period of 25 years is equaled only by his courage and devotion to duty.

May, 1942—Francis T. Maxwell gave $25,000 as a sinking fund, for the purpose of providing or improving athletic facilities at Fox Hill Park and for planting trees and shrubs.

## MAYOR RAYMOND E. HUNT

1942-1947

### THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Mayor Raymond E. Hunt, elected on December 2, 1941, listened to the story over the radio of the dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor five days later. A lover of the city that looms, reticent and reliable, he was mayor during World War II. As soon as he took office he announced that the late Colonel Francis T. Maxwell had bequeathed the sum of $25,000 to be used for the payment of bonds of the city of Rockville, which enabled the city to wipe out completely its bonded indebtedness.

Through the years of the war Mayor Hunt spoke words of

cheer to the hundreds of boys who have left the Town of Vernon to serve the armed forces of the country. Under his guidance, the newly appointed Recreation and Civic Center Committee is functioning diligently.

Mayor Hunt served the city for 26 years, first as city clerk and for the past six years as Mayor. The only times he was absent were during his vacations.

Taking office in January, 1942, about a month after Pearl Harbor, he has been Rockville's "War Mayor." In cooperation with town officials, his duty was to see that civilian defense measures were adopted and carried out so that Rockville would be protected in case of an emergency. He was always present as each group left for the armed services, and on hand to greet those men when they returned. The war postponed many projects.

March 9, 1943—Moved that the Dedication of the Town of Vernon Honor Roll held on Sunday, March 7, 1943, be officially recorded in the minutes of this Council Meeting, at which Dedication Exercises the Court of Common Council was well represented.

April 20, 1943—"Resolved that the City Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized to deposit in the Savings Bank of Rockville the sum of $6,000 to be known as the Francis T. Maxwell Fund for the payment of bonds of the City of Rockville falling due in future years; and that he be further authorized to deposit in the People's Savings Bank of Rockville the sum of $6,000 to be known as the Francis T. Maxwell Fund for the payment of bonds of the City of Rockville falling due in future years; and that the City Treasurer be further authorized to purchase for the City of Rockville Government Bonds in the amount of $13,000, the same to be a part of the Francis T. Maxwell Fund for the payment of bonds of the City of Rockville falling due in future years. These amounts constitute the bequest of $25,000 by the late Francis T. Maxwell.

Resolved that the City Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized to deposit in the Savings Bank of Rockville the sum of $5,000 to be known as the Francis T. Maxwell Fund for providing or improving Fox Hill Park; and that the City Treasurer be further authorized to purchase for the City of Rockville government bonds in the amount of $30,000 the same to be part of the Francis T. Maxwell Fund for providing and improving Fox Hill Park."

June 29, 1943—Mayor Hunt announced the appointment of a committee of five to study and revise the City Charter.

Voted to grade the Recreation Field.

August 10, 1943—Voted to permit the American Legion to erect crosses in Central Park in memory of those who have lost their lives in the present War, the same to remain for the duration.

August 24, 1943—Invitation accepted to attend the State Police Demonstration Tuesday the 31st at the Recreation and Civic Center Grounds.

February 29, 1944—The will of John E. Fisk, late of the Town of Vernon, contains the following bequest:

> Two-tenths of his estate thereof to the City of Rockville, Connecticut, absolutely and forever, but it is my wish that all money and funds to be received by said city hereunder shall be set apart as a separate fund and invested and reinvested until the principal and interest shall amount to at least thirty thousand dollars and that thereupon said funds shall be expended by the City for the erection within the limits of said City of a fountain, tower or lookout or other structure of a permanent nature for public use; that the structure when erected shall be known as the "Lottie Memorial."

Probate notice accepted and placed on file.

## JOHN EVERETT FISK

In March, 1900, John Everett Fisk was elected corporation counsel, a rising young lawyer of Tolland County, being a native of Stafford, where he was born February 19, 1869. He was educated at the Stafford High School. He studied law in the office of State's Attorney Joel H. Reed, of Stafford Springs, and was admitted to the Bar in 1891. He immediately opened an office in the Henry Building.

Mr. Fisk was judge for 37 years. He was the first in the Henry Building to have a telephone, and as there were only 32 other phones in Rockville at that time, his number was 33, which he retained for many years. He opened his office in September, 1891; he was City Attorney 1900 to 1934, and was appointed Judge of City Court in 1902. On his retirement after 37 years of service, he was presented with an inscribed bronze plaque by court officials.

April 11, 1944—Voted $345.60 for erection of fence around three sides of the Recreation Field approximately 945 feet. Contract awarded Emil T. Hallcher.

June 6, 1944—At a point in the meeting the members of the Council with bowed heads offered a silent prayer for the success of the United Nations in the European West Coast Invasion which started Tuesday, June 6, 1944.

On July 6, 1944, Rockville along with many other communities suffered a heavy loss in the fire that destroyed the tents of the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus in Hartford, and in which 162 persons lost their lives. Rockville lost five people in this disaster, Miss Marjorie Metcalf, Mrs. Dorothy Kuhnly and daughter Georgianna, Mrs. Irene North and daughter Irene.

January 16, 1945—Voted that the Committee appointed by the Mayor to draft suitable resolutions to be presented to the family and relatives of those who sacrificed their lives in World War II be authorized to purchase 100 copies of said resolutions.

Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 1945:

"Whereas the Almighty Ruler of the Universe has taken from our ranks almost in the very hour of victory our great and gallant President and Commander-in-Chief and

Whereas our Nation and the United Nations have suffered an irreparable and heart-rending loss by his untimely death, and whereas in that dark hour when evil forces threatened to destroy our country, his indomitable courage and fearless leadership inspired us to fight with greater hope and courage, and

Whereas his sudden, tragic death will be felt throughout the world by hundreds of millions of people to whom he symbolized freedom, democracy, humane tolerance and world peace

Therefore be it resolved that this Court of Common Council, in behalf of the City of Rockville does hereby formally give expression to its feeling for the irreparable loss the country and the world suffers in the death of our great President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, that a minute of this Resolution be spread upon the Records of the Council and that a copy be transmitted to his family, by the City Clerk, suitably signed and sealed as a feeble though sincere expression of our profound sorrow and deep sympathy in the hour of their and our bereavement."

May 1, 1945—Members of the City Council and others present stood in silent prayer and thanksgiving for the Allied Victory in Europe and for the success of the Allied Armies in the War in the Pacific against Japan.

Mayor Hunt read this Proclamation:

"Whereas the Allied Armies after five long years of ceaseless fighting to obtain a world peace have won from Germany a final and unconditional surrender, and

Whereas Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America has designated Sunday, May 13, 1945, to be a day of prayer and thanksgiving

Now, therefore, I, Raymond E. Hunt, mayor of the City of Rockville, do call upon the citizens of our city, whatever their faith to unite on this day in offering thanks to God for the victory we have won, and to pray for the continued success of of the United States and our Allies to bring to a speedy and victorious conclusion the fight against the remaining enemy in the Pacific."

May 8, 1945—The American Legion requested the donation of the Observation Post "hut" now standing in Henry Park, the Post to remove the same at its own cost and expense, without liability of any kind to the city. Request granted.

July 17, 1945—Request granted to the West End for permission to erect an Honor Roll between Union Street and Windsor Avenue.

October 28, 1946—"Welcome Home" Day Committee invited all officials of the City of Rockville to witness the "Welcome Home" Day Parade.

Mayor Hunt in his annual report for the year ending November 15, 1947, mentioned the excellent financial condition, the subjects taken up for consideration during the year—Zoning, Building Code, and the Revision of the City Charter, and concluded—"In closing my official term as Mayor, and after 26 years in connection with our Common Council, 20 years as the clerk, I desire to extend my sincere thanks."

Mayor Hunt informed the Council that the body of Robert Underwood, the first World War II casualty from Rockville, will arrive in the city on Monday, November 17. The mayor had ordered the flag on the municipal flagpole to be flown half-mast on Monday and Tuesday until 2 o'clock, the hour of the funeral.

December 16, 1947—Salaries of members of the City Police Department for each day's service: Captain $8.95; Sergeant $8.30;

Patrolman $8.00; Supernumerary $7.10; no allowance for extra time during the same day of 24 hours.

Vacations: All members of the Police Department who have served not less than five years in the department shall be granted and shall receive a vacation not to exceed 14 days during any fiscal year and said vacation shall be granted with pay to all members of the department who have served in said department.

## MAYOR FREDERICK S. BERGER

1948-

### MANY MODERN IMPROVEMENTS

On Monday, January 5, 1948, the oath of office was administered to the mayor-elect Frederick S. Berger by Raymond Hunt, after Mr. Berger had resigned as alderman of the third ward.

January 27, 1948—Decided to purchase a snow loader at a sum not to exceed $8,000.

Tuesday, March 9, 1948—Alderman Harry Ertel stated that the condition of the fence around the Recreation Field is a disgrace to the city, and he wondered who was responsible for its care. It had been deeded to the city, and the High School boys were ready to repair it. The matter was referred to the Public Works Committee.

Tuesday, June 1, 1948—Repair work on Tower on Fox Hill has been completed, and after three weeks no windows have been broken. The mayor complimented the Public Works Commission. Alderman Ertel reported that the Tower may be opened two days a week with police protection.

Judge Charles Underwood, chairman of the Safety Committee, presented to Mayor Berger the certificate from Governor Shannon awarded to the committees in Connecticut, including Rockville, as a result of not having had a traffic fatality in 1947. It was suggested that the certificate be hung in Police Court Room and shown to violators of the Motor Vehicle Laws.

July 29, 1948—Reported that Al Foster had applied two coats of paint to the Flagpole at the Fox Hill Tower at no charge to the City, and was to be commended for his generosity.

August 24, 1948—A five-member Economy Committee was appointed to study the local tax structure and make recommendations for greater efficiency and a more stable tax rate. Appointed were:

John McCormick, Wm. Dunlap, Robert Murphy, Kenneth Smith, Winfred Kloter.

November 4, 1948—Sample copies of the revised charter were distributed at the meeting, and the Finance Committee was empowered to get bids for printing.

December 7, 1948—Every person who shall place or deposit or cause to be placed or deposited upon any street, sidewalk, gutter, or park in the city of Rockville any store sweepings, loose papers, dirt, ashes, rubbish, snow, ice or refuse of any kind shall be fined in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars. Effective December 18, 1948.

Voted to install bleacher seats for Henry Park, providing 960 seats, at a cost of $3,552. Also voted to spend $1,250 for a new baseball diamond at Henry Park, the money for both of these projects to come from the Maxwell Fund.

January 18, 1949—Alderman Ertel reported more vandalism at the Fox Hill Tower and told that the Public Works Commission intends to replace the windows with steel plates which will not mar the beauty of the tower.

March 8, 1949—Alderman Bouchard reported that the Fire Committee held a meeting in regard to selling the city's old steam fire engine as there is no longer any use for it. There has been an offer of $75 for it, but the Fire Committee wishes to offer it to the people of Rockville before selling it to an outsider.

March 15, 1949—The next meeting—It was voted that the Old Steam Engine be kept by the Fire Committee until a veterans' fire association, which is being formed, receives its charter. If it does not receive a charter, the engine would be given to the Historical Society.

August 2, 1949—Alderman Flaherty called attention to the noise and disturbances which motorcycles have been making in the city and wished to mention it at a Council meeting so that publicity could be given to the matter and cause motorcyclists to be more considerate.

August 30, 1949—Alderman Bouchard reported that the Veteran Firemen's Association has received its charter and by-laws and is now ready to take over the ownership and care of the Old Steamer Fire Engine. The mayor asked the Corporation Counsel to draw up a resolution providing for the transfer of the engine from the city to the Firemen's Organization.

December 7, 1949—Resolved that the City of Rockville shall lease to the State of Connecticut, the "Peerless Silk Mill Building," so-called, for a period of two years for the yearly rental of $1800, for a State Armory.

April 24, 1950—Alderman Ertel asked to have read to the Council a paper dealing with the "Requirements for Installation of all Radio or Television Antennas." It was voted that Rockville adopt the suggested requirements.

Alderman Rohan asked the Council to go on record to support the Recruiting Drive of the local Red Cross Blood Bank. Rockville's quota is to be 600 pints of blood for the year. The date for the first visit of the Bloodmobile will be announced later.

September 10, 1951—Alderman Rohan recommended that the City of Rockville approve Social Security coverage for its full-time employees in the Public Works, Police, and Health Departments. Voted.

September 24, 1951—Alderman Kernan reported that the Police Department, for safety measures, is sending a traffic officer to Maple Street School where 100 extra pupils are enrolled until completion of the new Vernon School.

October 8, 1951—Alderman Kernan stated that the Health Committee has been considering a fluoridation program for Rockville to prevent tooth decay. Dr. Gessay (dentist) was invited to speak at the meeting.

November 14, 1951—Voted that the city treasurer be empowered to draw a check for $2,000 to Rockville Public Health Nursing Association.

January 31, 1952—The Council observed a moment of silent tribute in memory of a deceased city official, Saul L. Peizer.

The Building Inspector's report was presented by Roland Usher at regular intervals.

March 5, 1952—Alderman Ertel reported that because of overhead electric and telephone wires and low hanging tree limbs on the south side of Union Street, the Public Works Department could not use the snow loader to remove snow.

April 2, 1952—Resignation of Fire Chief William Flaherty was accepted with regret. The Mayor complimented Flaherty on his 38 years of service to the Community. Edward Friedrich was unanimously elected as his successor.

Hearing, April 30, 1952—Voted that the Public Works Com-

mittee be named as the Committee to lay out a highway extending Fox Street to meet a proposed street known as Fox Hill Drive in accordance with the provisions of the city charter.

May 14, 1952—Voted that the Ordinance Committee be empowered to draw up ordinance to change name of Fox Street to Fox Hill Drive.

## TRIBUTE PAID TO DONORS OF HENRY PARK

May 30, 1949

### MAYOR, AT OPENING OF DIAMOND SUNDAY THANKS ALL FOR AID

At the official opening of the new baseball diamond at Henry Park Sunday afternoon, when Rockville Moriarty's team played the Southington Sotons, Mayor Frederick S. Berger, who threw the first ball, paid tribute to all those who have made the park, with its sports field, possible.

Mayor Berger spoke as follows: "This being Memorial Day week-end, I believe that this is an appropriate time to pay honor to the two men who, through their generosity, have made this beautiful park possible, the Honorable E. Stevens Henry and Colonel Francis T. Maxwell. Let us pay tribute to their memory with a moment of silence."

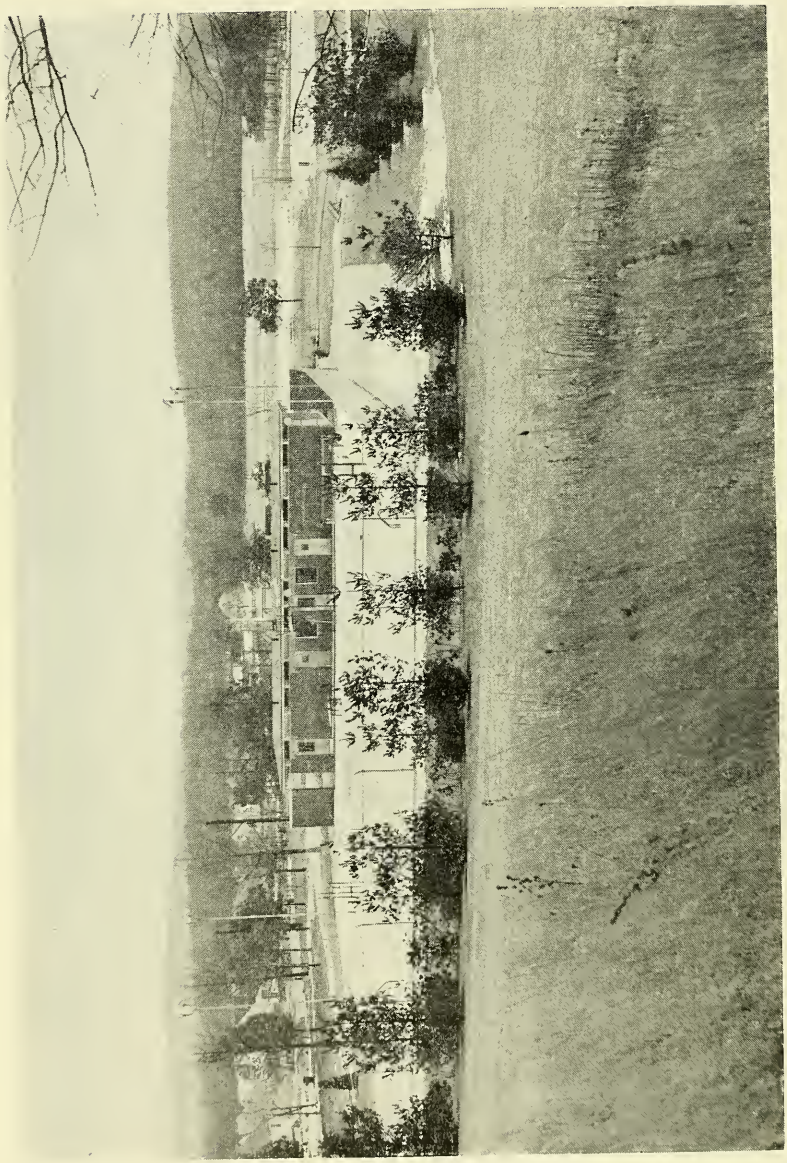
The new bleachers and backstop and also a public address system, were in use Sunday. Work on the diamond was started three years ago.

May 28, 1952—Police Committee had met with a Committee from the Chamber of Commerce in regard to parking meters and as a result it was decided that something had to be done to regulate parking space in the shopping area. Alderman Kernan moved that the Council authorize the Police Committee to provide for the installation of parking meters in the city of Rockville.

Mayor Berger stated that parking meters would be financed by the income from the meters. Carried—8 in favor, 4 not in favor.

An appropriation of $3,000 to be used for providing more adequate court room facilities, renovation of the Police Headquarters and Council rooms.

June 25, 1952—The Mayor called attention to the newly framed picture of the first mayor of Rockville, Samuel Fitch. The cost of



SWIMMING POOL AT HENRY PARK

the framing was paid for by the Mayor's granddaughter, Miss Marietta Fitch.

A communication from trustees of the William Horowitz Foundation was read. This was in regard to the fund started by Mr. Horowitz for a swimming pool, wading pool and field house to be presented to the City of Rockville. Since Mr. Horowitz's untimely death, the trustees desire to go ahead with this project, to be known as the Wm. Horowitz Memorial Swimming Pool. Upon completion of the project it will be presented to the City of Rockville, which will be responsible for its care and maintenance.

Voted that the William Horowitz Foundation be allowed to go ahead and start construction of swimming pool in Henry Park in the area between Memorial Tower and the Tennis Courts.

Alderman Ertel reported that a Merry-Go-Round had been installed in Henry Park for children under twelve years of age. He also called attention of the public to golf playing in Henry and Talcott Parks and asked for an ordinance to prohibit this practice in the city parks.

December 17, 1952—Alderman Kernan reported that in a check of parking meters Sunday, December 14, $496.01 was collected.

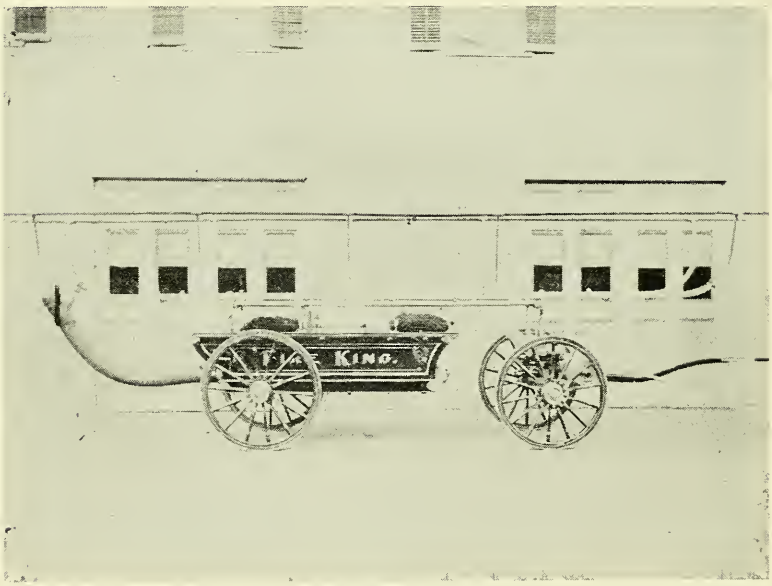
Voted to make out a check for $25.00 to the Town of Vernon to cover any damage that might occur at the East School during Junior basketball games and practice.

Mayor announced committee to consider the advisability of establishing a metropolitan district: Alderman Ertel, Alderman Kernan, Alderman Peters, Alderman Doherty, Raymond Hunt, Herman Olson, Claude Bilson, and John Dailey.

April 22, 1953—Fire Chief Edward Friedrich submitted resignation by letter. Mayor spoke of his service to community, skill and ability. He said it was a shame that the city had to lose such a fine man because of the carelessness of some people who start grass fires and then wait for the fire department to come and put them out. One day Mr. Friedrich had to leave his business five times for such fires.

Special April 27, 1953—The Mayor announced that the fund for the swimming pool was short by about $16,000. He said that the City of Rockville had a special fund that could be used for this purpose called the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund for Recreational Purposes. This fund was started several years ago and is made up of rentals from the old Peerless Mill. The Mayor

said he had talked with the Corporation Counsel, and he said the fund was perfectly all right to use toward the swimimng pool. The city treasurer was instructed to draw $10,000.




OLD "FIRE KING"

## THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The story of the Fire Department may be traced back to the purchase by the Town of Vernon in 1855 of the Fire King, a Smith hand engine, built in New York. This took the place of a Button engine that had been in service in the town for a dozen years before. For over twenty years, the old Fire King, sold in 1903 for $100, was the mainstay of the Volunteer firemen of Rockville. Those were the days when fire was the great enemy, and fire laddies manned the brightly painted hand-pumps and raced through the streets with hose carts and ladders. It was an exciting spectacle.

In the year 1855 the first Company was organized, and a charter of incorporation granted by the State of Connecticut, with the following charter members: Joseph Selden, James Toole, Wm. C. Avery, G. A. Groves, W. H. Wyckoff, A. A. Presbrey, H. Harwood, H. Newell, A. P. Hammond, John Dawson, Daniel Webster, Andrew Metcalf, Revilo Winchell, Chauncey Winchell, Chas. Metcalf, Alfred Hale, Henry Purnell, E. S. Henry, I. Whateley, Warren Bronson, Henry Selden, Nathaniel Grant, R. Barber, James Farrell, Rufus Chamberlain, A. McKinney, Royal Cobb, Charlie Harris, Smith Root, Jos. Thompson, Ed. Kellogg, John W. Thayer, Alonzo Bailey, and such other persons residing in the village of Rockville, as shall associate with them by voluntary enlistment, not to exceed sixty in number, known as the Hockanum Fire Engine and Hose Company. The first meeting was held in a small shanty on the corner of Orchard and Main Streets, near where the Springville mill stands, on December 26, 1855, with Joseph Selden as chairman and E. S. Henry as clerk.

On August 22, 1856, a committee consisting of Jos. Selden, W. H. Campbell, A. P. Hammond, W. A. Wyckoff, C. Winchell, and Henry Selden was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of erecting an engine house. The committee met with a generous response, and the house was erected and dedicated on Friday, December 18, 1857, on land which was given for the purpose. The members of the Company built the foundation from stones taken from the ruins of the Grant Mill fire, and judging from the minutes of the opening meeting, a right royal time was had, with Fire King No. 2 as guest.

In 1880 legislation was obtained granting the Town of Vernon

the right to establish a fire district and organize and maintain a paid Fire Department. The granting of such a privilege by the Connecticut General Assembly was an innovation, for no town had ever been given such authority at that time. Under this act, the town appointed a committee consisting of Crossley Fitton, George Sykes, E. Stevens Henry, to buy an engine. As a result on February, 1882, a Silsby steamer, costing $3,500, was purchased.

In August, 1882, a committee was appointed to receive subscriptions for the purchase of furniture, and the liberal response of citizens created a fund of $177 for this purpose.

The Company adopted a uniform in October, 1882, selecting a regulation cap and belt and a white shirt with red trimmings. Each member had the privilege of paying for his own uniform. Prompted by enthusiasm and pride in their work, filled with fire-fighting ardor—the firemen of Rockville had a record of faithful and effective work. The pay was nominal—25 dollars a year paid by the city after 1890.

In 1898 the Company purchased new uniforms, the old ones having been in service about fifteen years.

New equipment was purchased through the years, and citizens were deeply interested in the development of the Fire Department.

The trial of the new steamer Fitton on March 4, 1882, was witnessed by a large concourse of people gathered on the corners of streets and on the upper and middle terraces. In 1888 the Silsby Steam Fire Engine of the same size and capacity as the Steam Fitton, also a four-wheeled hose carriage with a capacity of 1000 feet of hose, attracted much attention.

The year 1888 was memorable for its local fires: First alarm on the evening of February 13—E. W. Tracy's smoke house on Main Street; the P. R. Moore building on Park Street (totally destroyed); Carroll & McDonnell; The Second Congregational Church; Fitch's Skating Rink; Snow & Deobler's; M. A. Woodruff; Frank Grant; D. E. Barnard; F. W. Wilbur's blacksmith; Harry L. Adams cotton mill; Doane's big fire; Wm. Pfunder's.

On April 3, 1888, the Second Congregational Church and the Fitch Block were totally destroyed by fire. The fire was discovered almost simultaneously by several individuals, including Watchman Griswold of the Rock Mill, who struck the mill bell, the time being 12:25 exactly. The fire must have been in progress some time as nearly the whole interior of the audience room seemed to

be on fire. Several windows burst out with flames so hot and fierce that it was impossible to get a hydrant stream on the building. It was very soon evident that the building could not be saved. The flames made quick work of the church, the walls being all down in three quarters of an hour. The steeple fell just before one o'clock, toppling over into Union Street.

On the early morning of July 26, 1895, the alarm called the Fire Department to the long wooden block of Mr. Orcutt, on Main Street. It was a hot fire certainly, with a stiff breeze blowing, so much so that cinders were picked up as far north as the Longview Schoolhouse and Ellington Marsh, and areas far beyond were at one time clouded with smoke. The total loss of the fire was upwards of $65,000. It was one of the most disastrous fires for several years, many merchants and business men and several families suffering. Seven stores were destroyed.

Another fiery reminiscence is the Market Street fire of February 28, 1897, early Sunday morning. It destroyed the other line of stores of Mr. Orcutt, nine in all. This, too, was a wooden structure, much older than the Main Street block. One of the buildings, which formed a part of the block, was the old Sears building, which was somewhat historical, inasmuch as the upper story was fitted as the first public hall in Rockville, and aside from its use for dances, small theatrical shows, etc., it had been the early home of various religious and other societies. The structure was one of those which it is impossible to save, when flames are once attached to it. It was of light wood, rendered inflammable by age and by oils and other inflammable substances, besides standing on stilts, with a tall open basement, which gave ample opportunity for the wind to fan the flames. Just at the south, and only a few feet distant, stood the American House, which fortunately escaped serious injury. At the west were stables and barns so near that it needed only a spark to cause their destruction, and at the north stood the Exchange Block, which, though of brick, contained not a single iron shutter for its windows, and on the east, just across the narrow street, stood several wooden structures, so near, that it needed not a blaze, but simply the heat to cause them to go up in flames, and yet with all of these inflammable surroundings, this fiery furnace was kept within its bounds, and the Rockville Fire Department added other laurels to those which they had already gained.

No. 2 Engine House located on Prospect Streret, the house of the Fitton Fire Company, was destroyed by fire.

Saturday, November 9, 1912, was a red-letter day for Rockville firemen—the dedication of the new Fitton Engine House. A number of visiting companies were present to participate, notably the Pawtuxet firemen with the old hand engine Fire King. There was a parade, with A. L. Martin as marshal and A. M. Burke as aide.

The building cost $10,000, was 62 x 32 feet, brick with blue stone trimmings and two stories in height. The city made a special appropriation for the new equipment. The new Fitton Fire Engine House was erected on an 8 mill tax, which included the purchase of a new steam fire engine and other fire-fighting equipment.

The burning of the Fishline Factory on May 10, 1916, was one of the most spectacular fires in years. The loss was estimated at $75,000. The fire wiped out the entire plant, including all the stock and machinery.

The Rockville Journal Fire on March 20, 1941, was a terrible blaze.

The Princess Hall fire in 1949 was destructive, and citizens should be proud of the Fire Department at all these fires.

Through the years the Fire Department has been developed into four companies—Snipsic Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1; the Fitton Engine Co., No. 2; The Samuel Fitch Hose Co., No. 3; and the Hockanum Hose Company.

Roger J. Murphy, an enthusiastic member of the Fire Department, tells the story of the hose racing which attracted the attention of crowds of people in 1887-1892. This is his comment:

> "We organized the team in 1887. Our first winning was a local race of 250 yards, laying 200 feet of hose within the distance, break and putting on the pipe. The time was 35½ seconds. The next race we won carried the state championship with it. It was held at Savin Rock on July 20, 1887. The run was 440 yards, laying 300 feet of hose within the distance, break and putting on the pipe ready for water. The carriage weighed 1,250 pounds, loaded, and we did it in the remarkable time of one minute, 9¼ seconds.
>
> "The next place we showed our ability as champions was at Danny Dunns town, Willimantic, October 8, 1888. The run was 250 yards, laying 200 feet of hose, break and put on pipe. We won with seconds to spare in 38½ seconds.
>
> "There was another state meet at the State Fair at Meriden on September 16, 1891. The run was 300 yards laying 300 feet of

hose within the break and putting on pipe. Wallingford won in 46½ seconds. Fitton was second in 47½ seconds.

"In the same year there was another big race at Bristol. The distance was the same as in the race at Meriden and the Fittons regained their lost laurels. The Fittons won this and established a state record of 43 seconds, which record still stands."

"Our next venture was at the State Fair at Meriden on September 30, 1892, in which we again showed form as champions. The distince was 300 yards, laying 300 feet of hose, break and put on pipe. We won easily in 46½ seconds, beating out our rivals, the Wallingfords.

## OLD FIRE FIGHTERS

A partial list of the names of men who served in the Rockville Fire Department when the Old Hand Engines were used.

### OLD KING

Jacob Reiden
Patrick Carey
John Wagner
Dennis Delaney
Joseph Forster
Thomas Brennan
R. H. Dawson
John Cratty
Charles Wood
J. W. Bailey
Loren Griswold
John Silcox
A. C. Crosby
Loren A. Chapin
Earl Symonds
John Pinder
L. A. Corbin
Thomas Wendhiser
James W. Burton
Frank Grant
Richard Lee
James Wicks
John Dunn
Joseph Wicks
William Lahey
James McCarthy
Dwight Buckminster
H. G. Holt
Nelson Buckminster
James Morrison
M. W. Pember
Thomas Moore
Joshua Wood
George Harris
James Fitzgerald
B. L. Burr
George Mesler
Patrick Lynch
Patrick McGuane
Thomas Cratty
Martin Flood
John G. Leach
Willard Griswold
W. R. Mills
Wells Symonds
Samuel Willis
Fred Doebler
Christian Cook
John Corbin
Henry Buckminster
O. C. West
Alfred Harding
George Lee
Mark Hook
Lawrence Cavanaugh
John Cullen
Almon Harris
Thomas Flood
Alfred Abbey
Ashley Bartlett
H. T. Bolles
Nathan H. Thompson
Fred Gainor
S. L. Hickoth
Lewis Hunt
C. E. Harris
John T. Carroll
Nicholas Wendhiser
Lorenzo Webster
F. B. Skinner
Maurice Rady
John Abbey
G. L. Grant
A. P. Dickinson
Osroy Bartlett
Wm. Rogers
W. R. Olcutt
Chas. Weston
Chas. Vuettner
Frank Karber
John White
G. N. Brigham
Frank E. White
Alfred Gainor
Julius Thrall
J. F. Wicks
Mathew Cavanaugh
Dennis E. Nooman
William V. McNerney
James Lee
B. F. Lloyd
W. J. Thompson
Silas Putnam
E. P. Allen
Samuel Wicks

## HOCKANUM

Cyrus Winchell
Michael Regan
August Hemmann
James Looke
Charles Brown
William Scott
Fred Weber
James Breen
Levi Bailey
James Stevens
James Gilfillan
Thos. F. Burpee
Chas. C. Blackman
James Sheehan
Augustus Truesdell
Frank Pfeifer
Carlos McKinney
Ferdinand Batz
John Gillis
John G. Bonnett
Redmond Morrison
John Stewart
J. B. Fuller
John Jackson
N. R. Grant
E. S. Henry
Michael A. Burke
Ralph I. Barber
Edward Kellogg
H. A. Clifford
John Chapman
Henry Schmalz
Thomas Schick
Chauncey Winchell
W. H. Jones
Frank Schmidt
Edward Marshman
Martin Burke
Charles Metcalf
Patrick Burns
Samuel Woods
Edward White
Thomas Forrest
Thomas Whatly
Joseph Selden
R. G. Holt
Edward Batz
Alex Ritchie
Daniel Haas
August Reidel
John Pitney
Henry Marshman
Martin Yost
Michael Morrison
Henry Tiley
James Fuller
Miles King
A. Park Hammond
Louis Pfeifer
Henry Selden
Algernan McKinney
Martin Truesdell
Maurice Rady
James Toole
William Harlan
Hiram Nuvell
Revillo Winchell
John Hook
Adam Weidner
Gideon Angell
Martin Dowling
John Schaefer
William Austin
Lebbeus Bissell
Thomas Eccles
Edward Hurlbut
Hezekiah McVernney
S. Albert Groves
Joseph G. Thompson
August Batz
Andrew G. Metcalf
Adolph VanStaudt
Max Kolmer
Thomas Burt
Gideon Marshman
Patrick Buckley
Rufus Chamberlain
Wm. Randall
M. Buckley
Patrick Dwyer
John Denzler
Oscar Fidler
Fred Harding
Cas. G. Pond
Chas. Pfeifer
Henry Purnell
Jonathan Ladd
Valentine Bentz

# SECTION VI

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# THE HALLOWED CHAPTERS

# OF

# PATRIOTISM

On the following pages will be found brief accounts of the wars in which the Colonies and the United States have been involved, and in which there has been an increasing participation of men and women of the town of Vernon.

The Honor Roll of Vernon's war dead, brought up-to-date in 1952, is the most complete and comprehensive in the entire state of Connecticut. Even so, we regretfully suspect that the names of some have not been preserved for us.

## FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

France vs. England (England received aid from the English Colonies in America.)

Causes:

(1) Control of the Ohio Valley was the immediate cause of hostilities.

(2) Both France and England were waging war for the control of the American continent.

Results:

(1) English civilization, rather than Spanish or French, was to be dominant in North America.

(2) The war enabled the colonial militia to acquire valuable military experience and to develop such leaders as Washington, Schuyler, Montgomery and others.

(3) The removal of the French menace made the colonies less dependent upon the mother country for protection, and, therefore, more independent in their attitude toward her.

# FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR - 1754-1763

### DOBSONVILLE CEMETERY, VERNON

Loomis, Elijah

### OLD VERNON CEMETERY, VERNON

Brunson, Isaac Chapman, Thomas King, Hezekiah
Thrall, Isaac

In addition to the above, according to the Bolton Records, several Soldiers from Bolton died in this war:

Levi Strong at Fort Edward, July 25, 1757.

Charles King at Lake George, September 6, 1758.

Thomas Wells on his return from the Army from Crown Point, November 30, 1759.

Stephen Boardman, Jr., at Oswego, N. Y., after the conquest of Montreal.

Jonathan Wright, Jr., at Oswego, N. Y.

Hosea Bronson, at Havana, October 2, 1762.

Causes:

(1) The environment of the New World, plus long periods of "salutory neglect," had bred a spirit of liberty and self-reliance.

(2) The theory of mercantilism which dominated 18th century economic thought conflicted with the vital interests of the colonies and with their ideal of self-government in politics and freedom in trade.

(3) The unwise policies adopted by George III and his advisers after 1763 to secure more effective political and economic control over the colonies aroused a storm of opposition and led to acts of violence on both sides which made reconciliation impossible.

Results:

(1) By the Treaty of Paris (1783), Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States.

# REVOLUTIONARY WAR - 1775

## ELMWOOD CEMETERY, VERNON

Grant, Elnathan
King, Lemuel
Rogers, Leonard
Smith, Roswell
Squires, Daniel
Talcott, Phineas

## DOBSONVILLE CEMETERY, VERNON

Dart, Leve
Dart, William
Loomis, Elijah
Millard, Leavitt
Talcott, Samuel
Skinner, Zenas
Talcott, Benjamin

## OLD VERNON CEMETERY, VERNON

Chapman, Phineas
Chapman, Thomas
Chesebrough, Jabez
Dart, William
Dorchester, David
Emerson, Andrew
Grant, Ozias
Hunt, William
Johns Abijah
Johns, Thomas
Kellogg, Ebenezer
King, Charles
King, Elijab
King, Dock Joel
King, Oliver
King, Seth
King, Reuben
King, Stephen
Loomis, Solomon
McKinney, Alexander
Payne, John
Pearle, Joshua
Pratt, Timothy
Root, Daniel
Root, Samuel
Talcott, Benjamin
Talcott, Justus
Tucker, Ephian
Walker, John
Webster, Asabel

The closest that war ever came to Vernon was when the British burned New London, on the 6th of September, 1781. That event, along with the battle of Groton Heights, caused considerable alarm through the inland towns. In the second volume of Smith's "History of Pittsfield" is told the story of what happened in Vernon on that occasion:

> "Abel West was in his early manhood when the Revolutionary War broke out. The little congregation in Vernon being assembled for worship on the Sabbath, a courier rushed in and announced that the enemy were on hand, off New London, and men and help were needed. The minister stopped services and exhorted his people to take their arms and go. All the men rushed to their arms, such as each man had. Young West was lame and had nothing but a single barreled fowling piece, but he was there on the ground as soon as his neighbors. Governor Trumbull, seeing his lameness and weapon, assured him that he would do more for his country by going home and raising food for the army than by fighting. He took the advice and returned home; but the fire of patriotism still glowed, and grew in intensity, till, hearing how hard it was for Washington to procure food for his army, he sold his farm and put the "avails" in open wagons loaded with food, all he had in the world, and started south. When passing through New Jersey, he met a courier riding and shouting that Lord Cornwallis had surrendered, and the war was over. The provisions would not be needed, and he need not proceed further. The government took all off his hands, paid him down in Continental money, which was not worth a farthing, and the patriot returned home stripped of all he had, and was a poor man the rest of his days."

There is reason to believe that this story has been exaggerated, especially in regard to the voluntary poverty of Abel West, for the records of Bolton show that in 1790 Abel West was wealthy enough to buy and sell lands lying in the present town of Vernon.

THE WAR OF 1812 (1812-1814)

Causes:

(1) The impressment of American seamen by the British.

(2) The inexcusable attack of the British man-of-war, the Leopard, upon the American frigate, the Chesapeake, in 1807.

(3) English agents provided the Indians of the Northwest with arms.

Results:

(1) The Treaty of Ghent reestablished peace between the two nations.

(2) The chief significance of the War of 1812 lay in its effects on the internal development of our own country.

## WAR OF 1812

### GROVE HILL CEMETERY, VERNON

Carpenter, Solomon
Colton, Giden
Kellogg, Israel
Kingsbury, John
Tinker, Lebius P.
McKinney, Justus
Spellman, Samuel T.

### ELMWOOD CEMETERY, VERNON

Abbott, John
Bruce, Thadeus
Cady, Russell
Chapman, Andrew
Chapman, Benjamin
Chapman, Elijah
Fuller, Matthew S.
Grant, Elisha
Hammond, Joseph
Kellogg, Martin
King, Joel
King, Oliver H.
McLean, Francis
Palmer, Elliott
Roberts, Cornelius
Rogers, Auson
Talcott, Phineas
White, Daniel

### DOBSONVILLE CEMETERY, VERNON

Lee, Elijah
Tucker, Harvey

### OLD VERNON CEMETERY, VERNON

Hunt, Oliver
Kellogg, Martin

## THE MEXICAN WAR (1846-1848)

Causes:

(1) The annexation of Texas by the United States.

(2) The immediate cause of hostilities was the entry of General Taylor's troops into the disputed area between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, an area claimed by both Mexico and Texas.

Results:

(1) The conflict further embittered relations between Mexico and the United States, traces of this enmity surviving to our own day.

(2) It enabled the United States to complete its expansion to the Pacific coast.

(3) It brought to the front once again the status of slavery in the Western Territories.

According to the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C., there were no men from the town of Vernon in the regular Army during the Mexican War. There are in the War Department no records of volunteer troops from Connecticut who served in this war.

Causes:

(1) The withdrawal of the Southern states from the Union.

(2) The conflict between two different economic and social systems.

(3) The quarrel over slavery.

Results:

(1) The Union was preserved.

(2) Slavery was abolished.

(3) Democracy was put to its greatest test—survived.

The men who were drafted from Vernon went to the Florence Mill, now the Envelope Shop, where there was a recruiting office. The Boys in Blue did not leave town in busses or trains. They were loaded into big wagons drawn by four horses and taken to Vernon, and there they took the train.

A morgue was established in the schoolroom of what is now the First Lutheran Church on West Main Street. Bodies of the dead were brought there for Union soldiers and relatives to identify.

Edward A. Denzler, "the Mayor of Ward Street" has told of the time of Abraham Lincoln's assassination—that the message was brought to Rockville by telegraph, the telegraph office being located in a hardware store in the basement of the Second Congregational Church. There were no radios and no telephones then. All the bells in town rang, and people came from every direction to see what had happened.

## CIVIL WAR

### GROVE HILL CEMETERY, VERNON

Auld, John
Avery, Frederick B.
Bailey, Joseph
Bailey, Leo
Batten, William
Bever, August
Bilson, Henry J.
Bowers, Abner S.
Bradley, Henry J.
Brigham, George N.
Brooks, Charles U.
Brown, Avery
Bruce, William C.
Burpee, Thomas F.
Burr, Bela L.
Carson, David I.
Chadwick, John H.
Chapin, Loan A.
Chapman, Daniel F.
Charter, Leverett
Colburn, George W.
Cooley, Charles C.
Dart, Charles E.
Dart, Egbert
Dickinson, Francis P.
Durfee, Thomas M.
Ellis, Samuel K.

Emerson, William
Emery, Ira
Fehr, Jacob
Febber, Jacob
Forrest, Samuel A.
Frank, Jacob
Fuller, Lafayette D.
Gainer, Albert E.
Gainer, Frederick H.
Gakeler, Albert
Gilmore, Robert
Goldrick, John T.
Goodell, William W.
Goodrick, George W.
Griswold, Loren S.
Griswold, Russell
Griswold, Willard
Gross, August
Hammond, A. Park
Hartenstein. Louis
Hayes, Edwin C.
Henimann, August
Hetzler, John
Hells, Orrin O.
Hirst, Benjamin
Hirst, John
Hirst, Joseph
Holt, Roland
Holtsizer, John
Hook, William
Hoy, Frederick
Hunt, Lewis W.
Isham, John W.
Jackson, Cyrus F.
James, Joseph H.
Julian, John F.
Keller, John F.
King, Albert J.
King, Harvey
Koehler, Jacob A.
Laurin, John W.
Lathrop, Edwin H.
Lee, George
Lee, Richard
London, George
Loomis, William H.
Lutz, Jacob
Maine, Frank D.
Mann, William
Martin, Elisha J.
McFarlane, Charles
McIntosh, David
McKinney, Austin A.
McPherson, John
Metcalf, Martin U. B.
Miller, John F.
Muller, Karl
Myer, Emil
Newell, Julius H.
Newell, Kilbourne E.
Noad, William J.
Orven, Henry
Parker, Augustine B.
Pease, Charles W.
Pease, Horatio E.
Pennovsky, Oscar
Phelpo, Lester D.
Phillipp, Louis
Pierce, George A.
Pinney, Lyman D.
Porter, Joseph
Post, Edwin
Pratt, Thomas S.
Pryor, Issac T.
Putnam, Adam P.
Rapp, Henry
Reed, Richard
Reedel, August
Resier, Franz J.
Rentschler, John
Renz, Christopher
Rich, Albert L.
Rich, Samuel C.
Rockwell, Asahel S.
Root, William B.
Schrieier, Louis
Schrieier, Otto
Scott, William
Seymour, Buch
Skinner, Alden
Smith, Isaac N.
Snell, Marcus N.
Stebbins, Elton R.
Stickney, John W.
Stoughton, Erwin
Stranbeld, Gristow
Strong, William H.
Symonds, Edwin
Symonds, John
Tiley, Henry
Towne, Albert H.
Truesdell, Alfred W.
Truesdell, Harlan P.
Truesdell, Martin A.
Vinton, Chelsea G.
Warner, Alfred B.
West, Delrone
Weston, Charles
Wicks, Frederick
Wicks, Genge
Willibold, Walter
Williams, John
Willis, Dominick
Winans, William H.
Wood, Charles W.
Wyllys, Charles A.
Yost, Martin
Young, Fred W.

## ELMWOOD CEMETERY, VERNON

Abbott, Thomas F.
Austin, Eugene G.
Banker, Charles E.
Baker, Denison
Bingham, George S.
Blinn, Henry E.
Dart, Oliver
Edgerton, Alton L.
George, William H.
Harvey, Melvin
Kneeland, Dwight
Ogden, John A.
Orcutt, Henry
Pearl, Henry M.
Perkins, Russell W.
Pratt, Henry W.
Talcott, Allyn K.
Thompson, Jacob
Thrall, Charles G.
Warren, Gilbert

## MT. HOPE CEMETERY, VERNON

Bantley, Francis
Brown, Orrin O.
Bushnell, James M.
Foster, Philip H.
Gammons, Warren S.
Griswold, Ward H.
Hills, Alonzo
Hollister, Orin G.
Hunn, Horace
Loomis, Henry S.
Lord, Sylvester G.
McCollum, Henry F.
Percival, John H.
Pierce, Albert B.
Pinney, Henry G.
Stoughton, Frank E.

## ST. BERNARD'S CEMETERY, VERNON

Abby, John
Boyne, Patrick
Brennan, John W.
Conner, Patrick
Cowan, William
Farrell, James
Farrell, James
Farrell, Matthew
Farrell, Matthew
Fay, Michael
Fay, Patrick
Foley, Patrick
Jackson, Patrick
Kelly, Daniel
Kernan, Thomas
LaCrosse, Felix
Ladd, George W.
McCarthy, Samuel
Messler, George
Molloy, Thomas
Moore, Dennis
Murphy, William
Willeke, Frederick
Murray, Joseph
Noone, Patrick
O'Connell, John
O'Brien, Patrick
Powers, John
Rich, Eustus
Stafford, Joseph
Stark, Thomas
Tate, George
Tone, Thomas
Tierney, Michael

MEMORIAL HALL

## THE TOWN AND MEMORIAL HALL

For twenty years nothing was done to commemorate the 336 heroes of the Town of Vernon, who fell in the War of the Rebellion. It was not until the year 1884 that any public action in the matter was taken. William W. Andros had the honor of bringing it before the people at the Memorial Day exercises at Rockville. At that time he read a paper presenting strongly the obligations of the town to its soldiers, and made a vigorous plea for a memorial in their honor.

At the next Annual Town Meeting in October, 1884, a resolution was introduced by William W. Andros asking for an appropriation to erect a soldiers' memorial monument. Judge Dwight Loomis and several others were strongly in favor of a memorial for the soldiers but not in the particular form suggested. They advocated erecting a large and handsome building which would not only be a fitting memorial for soldiers but at the same time be of use and benefit to the town. A committee was therefore chosen consisting of William W. Andros, Judge Dwight Loomis, A. P. Hammond, E. S. Henry, Dr. A. R. Goodrich and H. Gardner Talcott to consider the matter and report at a future meeting.

At the Annual Town Meeting of October, 1885, the committee recommended the purchase of a site for the building. They were in favor of buying the lot at the corner of Park and School Streets from Benezet H. Bill for $7,000. The town voted to do it, and soon after the lot was bought.

At the Annual Town Meeting October 3, 1887, the town voted to appropriate $75,000 for a Memorial and Town Building on the Park and School Streets site, according to the plans presented by the Building Committee chosen—E. S. Henry, James Fitzgerald, George Sykes, A. P. Hammond and Dr. A. R. Goodrich.

Soon after the meeting there developed considerable opposition to the Park Street site which found expression in a call for a Town Meeting on February 11, 1888, to see if the town would rescind the vote to build on the site purchased, and buy the Dowling lot, near the corner of Union and West Main Streets.

A large and well-drawn map of Rockville designed to show the poor location of the site bought by the town on Park and School Streets was exhibited in the post office lobby. The map was intended to show Dowling's Corner, Union and Main Streets as a more desirable location.

At a special town meeting gathered to decide the question of changing the location, it was voted 345 to 235 in favor of the Dowling lot, but it was discovered that Dowling wouldn't sell the lot, as he had planned to build a business block there.

Then it was suggested that the First Church lot would make the best possible site. So another special town meeting was held on March 31, 1888, and at that time George Maxwell, Samuel Fitch and others offered to give the town the Jackson lot on Union Street, east of the site on which the library now stands, valued at $12,000, free, for a hall site. This meeting was adjourned until April 14, 1888, when a vote by ballot was taken for the Church lot or the Jackson lot, resulting in 1,021 votes cast; 595 to 426 in favor of the First Church lot. The polls opened at 8 A.M. and closed at 5 P.M.

The site secured proved ideal for such a building. Located in the business center of the town, it is a conspicuous object from every direction. It fronts the beautiful Central Park, adjoins the fine Henry Building on the east and the imposing Methodist Church edifice on the west. The lot on Park Place is 148 feet with a depth of 93 feet east, and on the west the lot extends back 193 feet.

It is a magnificent building for the use of the town: on the first floor there are various town offices, on the second floor is located the court room, with numerous ante-rooms, and on the third floor is the town hall, covering nearly the whole space of the building, 66 feet by 99 feet. The plans were prepared by Richmond & Seabury, Springfield, architects, and the contract for $68,150 was with Darling Brothers, Worcester, Massachusetts. Over one million bricks were used in the building.

Memorial Day on Thursday, May 30, 1889, was more truly and completely a memorial day than any previously held, for this was the appointed time for the laying of the corner stone of the Memorial Building.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon a parade was formed on Union Street and moved to Memorial Hall. Dr. A. R. Goodrich presided over the exercises. A patriotic selection was rendered by the American Band; opening prayer, Rev. O. W. Scott; an oration by Judge Dwight Loomis. At the close of the oration, President Goodrich requested the Grand Lodge of Connecticut Free and Accepted Masons to lay the corner-stone, according to the sacred rites of the craft.

Past Grand Master Green conducted the ceremonies. Prayer was offered by Grand Chaplain Warner. A box of documents was placed within a stone which was dedicated by the pouring upon it of corn, wine and oil. There were brief addresses by Past Master Green and Department Commander Pierpont.

It is worthy of note that the cornerstone of the Memorial Hall is over the identical place where previously there stood a temple dedicated to the living God—the First Congregational Church.

The first gathering in the town hall of the Memorial Building was a special town meeting on Saturday afternoon, September 6, 1890, at 2 o'clock. The building committee presented its detailed report of the building, showing the total cost of $88,106.05. The final payment on the Memorial building was made in September, 1944.

Judge Dwight Loomis observed that there was one grave oversight in the planning. No room had been given to a public library and reading room. He remarked that E. S. Henry in 1887 had offered to be one of ten to give $1,000 a year for ten years towards such a room for a library. Judge Loomis also spoke of the desirability of suitable tablets which would recognize the individual soldier. He submitted the following resolution which was adopted, but not carried out:

> Resolved:—"That the public duty of properly perpetuating the memory of the services of those brave men is not fully discharged until suitable tablets are placed in the vestibule of Memorial Building whereon shall be recorded the name and regiment of every soldier enlisting from the Town of Vernon and voted that a committee of five be appointed and instructed to procure suitable bronze tablets in accordance with the foregoing resolution, and also to erect at the expense of the Town a proper pedestal with a symbolic statue whenever sufficent funds are provided by public subscription to defray the cost of the same."

A tragedy occurred during the erection of the building. Antonio Colombe, 39, a bricklayer from Holyoke, Massachusetts, fell from the tower, a distance of sixty feet, on Thursday, September 26, 1889, and was instantly killed. A week later, on Friday, October 4, two workmen, August Jensen and John Hanse, Worcester, Massachusetts, repairing the staging on the front of Union Church tower fell seventy feet, and were killed.

In November, 1952, for the first time since the City of Rockville was incorporated in 1889, an appropriation was made by the voters to make possible a radical change in the departments situated on the entire west ground floor of the Memorial Building.

The alterations were started in November, 1952, and completed in December, 1953, at a cost to the city of $2,872.67, including the changing of the former Common Council Chamber, occupied by the Mayor, the City Clerk and Superintendent of Public Works and the present Police Department.

What was formerly the Police Station located in the center of the three departments is now the office of the Superintendent of Public Works and that of the Building Inspector. The rear chamber north, formerly the Police Court Room, is now occupied jointly by the Police Court and Court of Common Council. The various departments have been modernized, and asphalt tiling laid on the entire floor, and the cost to the Town of Vernon, according to Selectman Pagani, was approximately $4,000. The total cost of the change was approximately $7,000.

## THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898)

Causes:

(1) The sinking of the U.S.S. Maine while on a visit to Havana.

(2) The cruel measures employed by Spain's General Weyler to crush the insurrection in Cuba.

Results:

(1) The United States emerged from the conflict with the rank of a world power.

(2) The United States acquired Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine Islands. (Spain agreed to give up the Philippines in return for $20,000,000.)

## ROSTER OF COMPANY C FIRST REGIMENT WHEN MUSTERED INTO THE UNITED STATES SERVICE AT CAMP HAVEN, NIANTIC, MAY 17, 1898, BY LIEUTENANT ROWAN, U. S. ARMY.

### OFFICERS

Captain—Martin Laubscher

Lieutenants—1st, John Paul Haun; 2nd, Frederick W. Chapman.

First Sergeant—James H. Barnett.

Sergeants—Quartermaster, Francis Murray; Charles B. Milne, Arthur W. Gyngell, *James W. Milne, Albert E. Usher.

Corporals—1st, William F. Schillinger; 2nd, Webster Kaye; 3rd, James S. Jones; 4th, Arthur R. Gerich; 5th, William J. Breen; 6th, Albert E. M. Profe.

Musicians—William J. Finley, Walter F. McCray.

Artificer—Henry C. Seipt.

### PRIVATES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Charles R. Anderson | Hugo Broll | Philip Diedering, Jr. |
| Sylvester E. Arnold | Harry J. Brown | Francis F. Einseidel |
| Ernest E. Austin | Frank D. Chadwick | James B. Farrell |
| Albert C. Bartlett | Richard G. Champion | Francis P. Fitzpatrick |
| James A. Beaumont | Wilbur F. Charter | Joseph H. Flynn |
| Charles E. Binck | Jesse Clift | Otto Flossbach |
| Richard Brache | John Connors, 2nd | Herman P. Franz |
| Frank S. Breen | Jewitt Cullum | John E. Gawtrey |

George F. Gorham
*Felix Gross
Manville Grumback
John J. Hecker
George A. Hewitt
John A. Hewitt
Andrew Hopf
Squire Jackson
Jason D. Lowell
Charles F. Ludwig
James H. Lutton
Joseph H. Lutz
Thomas P. Lynch
Mathew McNamara
Philip J. Mahr
Ferfinand A. Matthewson
George Meyer
George H. Miller
Thomas L. Millott
Thomas F. Moore
John C. Murphy
Donald K. McLagan
Thomas F. Newbury
Francis M. Norton
John J. O'Neil
William Phillips
Frederick J. A. H. Profe
James J. Quinn
Robert H. Rau
John Regan
Emil R. Schwerwitzky
Carl C. Schmeiske
Emil W. Schmieske
Ernest A. Sharp
Isaac Simms
John H. Smith
Frederick W. Stengel
Henry H. Tracy
Herman C. Wagner
Anthony Wanneger
Walter J. Willis
Howard Winchell

*Died of typhoid fever, contracted while in the service of Uncle Sam.

## SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

### GROVE HILL CEMETERY, VERNON

Capt. Martin Laubscher
Bartlett, Albert C.
Burpee, Lucien P.
Chapman, Frederick W.
Cliff, Jesse
Flossbach, Otto E.
Gross, Felix
Grumback, Manville
Gyngell, Arthur W.
Hervitt, George A.
Milne, James W.
Proffe, Albert
Schmeiske, Carl C.
Rockwell, Thomas F.
Thayer, George B.
Waidner, Charles J.

### ST. BERNARD'S CEMETERY, VERNON

Barnett, James H.
Breen, William J.
Hecker, John J.
Hefferon, William M.
Marker
McNamara, Matthew
Murphy, John C.
Newbury, Henry C.
Phillips, William J.
Quinn, James J.
Willis, Walter J.
Belotte, Joseph J.
Bliss, George F.
Brown, Robert J.
Byron, William C.
Cahill, William
Ciechowski, Joseph
Doherty, James E.
Plesa, Michael S.
Edwards, Thomas
Farrell, Stephen J.
Hatheway, John E.
Kaminski, Genevieve R.
Kennedy, John
King, Ivan
Kleindienst, John C.
Leahy, William D.
Moore, Joseph J.

## WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)

Causes:

(1) Germany's unrestricted submarine campaign.

(2) The idea that it was our duty to enter the war in order to "end autocracy" and help "make the world safe for democracy" was very real in 1917.

Results:

(1) The Central Powers were defeated.

(2) President Wilson succeeded in getting the Covenant of the League of Nations adopted as the first article of the Treaty of Versailles. The United States Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles.

(3) The United States did not join the League of Nations. The United States embarked on a policy of isolationism during the 20's.

## VERNON HONOR ROLL, WORLD WAR I

Ahern, Howard G.
AmEnde, Albert
Anderson, Gustave
Andrews, Frederick P.
Andrews, Roland Nelson
Anear, Earl Leslie
Atcheson, Walter Harvey
Athanacelous, Alkiviades
Ayer, Floyd E.
Backofen, Alfred H.
Backofen, Ernest P.
Backofen, Walter P.
Backofen, William
Badsteubner, Frank A.
Baer, Max P.
Baer, William A.
Bajorin, Bartholomew
Barber, James S.
Batz, Charles F.
Bean, Allen D.
Beaverstock, Lester H.
Beebe, Olin J.
Beinhauer, William
Bellucci, Harry
Benton, Lester F.
Benton, Rutherford
Beer, Alfred W.
Bilcelki, Alex
Bissell, Lebbeus F.
Blankenburg, Charles W.
Blonstein, Morris L.
Blonstein, Reuben
Bock, John
Bowers, Ira E.
Brahe, Ferdinard H.
Brennan, James J.
Brigham, George N.
Brogowski, John J.
Brown, Robert J.
Buchanan, Robert L.
Burkhardt, Walter A.
Burney, Alexander
Byrnes, Edward T.
Cadder, Thomas M.
Cahill, William
Caron, Walter E.
Carver, Justin B.
Carver, Percy H.
Cattone, William R.
Chapin, Harry
Chapman, Daniel E.
Chapman, Lewis H.
Charter, Legrand F.
Chase, William R.
Christopher, Gordon N.
Church, Elmer A.
Ciechowski, John S.
Ciechowski, Joseph
Clark, Charles E.
Clark, George E.
Colombo, John J.
Columbo, Paul F.
Conrady, Carl
Coogan, Edward B.
Cook, Caspar
Cooley, Percy L.
Cooley, Sterling C.
Cormier, Robert
Couture, Peter E.
Covras, William N.
Cratty, Francis B.
Cratty, John J.
Crossett, Sidney R.
Crossley, John D.
Crough, Olin J.
Cyrkiewicz, Frank
Davies, Robert A.
Davis, Elmer W.

## VERNON HONOR ROLL, WORLD WAR I

Davis, Ray A.
Deal, Alfred F.
Deal, William W.
Dean, Philip
Deptula, John K.
Deptula, Louis
Deptula, William
Desso, Rufus D.
Dickinson, Allan L.
Dickinson, Francis M.
Dimock, Howard Orrin
Dobosz, Stanley
Doggert, Robert J.
Doherty, Charles F.
Doherty, Cornelius H.
Doherty, James E.
Dowding, Eldred F.
Dowding, Harold N.
Dowling, Martin C.
Doyle, John J., Jr.
Duell, Christopher J.
Dunbar, Washington
Dunlap, William J.
Elliott, Frederick L.
Elliott, George F.
Elliott, Walter
Ellis, Elton H.
Emery, Theodore Ira
Ertel, Harry F.
Fahey, James W.
Fahey, Raphael E.
Fahey, Raymond A.
Farr, Thomas J.
Fay, James R.
Filip, Frank A.
Finley, George H.
Finley, Vincent
Fiss, Charles A.
Fiss, William C.
Fitch, James Judd
Flaherty, Leo B.
Flamm, Harry W.
Flechsig, Albert
Forrest, John E.
Frey, Arthur Peter
Frey, Charles J.
Friedrich, Albert
Frieze, John Peter
Fryer, Curtis F.
Gambosi, John
Gearin, William
Gebhardt, Carl
Georgie, William
Gerich, Carl E.
Gerich, Charles J.
Gerich, Fred W.
Glasser, Paul
Goldberg, Maurice
Goldfield, Ben E.
Goldfield, Harry
Goldfield, Meyer
Gonsensky, Stephen
Gough, Francis J.
Gough, William T.
Grant, William John
Green, Frank J.
Greer, Frank A.
Grennan, John L.
Griffin, Herbert
Grous, Bronislaw
Grous, William G.
Gsell, Arthur
Gworek, Jacob
Hammond, George E.
Hanawold, Albert F.
Hannan, William G.
Hansen, Henry P.
Hansen, Milton C.
Hansen, Walter E.
Hany, Ernest J.
Harding, Edward G.
Hartenstein, Frederick
Hartman, Leslie L.
Haun, Ralph
Haun, Renatus C.
Hecker, Edward J.
Heckler, Arthur D.
Hefferon, Hamilton H.
Heintz, Edward Henry
Held, Gottlieb M.
Held, Ottmar Henry
Heller, Adolph G.
Heller, Benjamin
Heller, William
Herig, Edwin J.
Herring, Clifford L.
Hill, Emory O.
Hiller, George K.
Hirth, William K.
Hitchcock, Charles W.
Holden, James J.
Hollister, Hudson W.
Holtsizer, John C.
Hopkins, Walter E.
Huebner, Adam
Hunniford, Herbert F.
Hunniford, William
Hvesuk, Nicholas
Irmischer, Paul
Jelinek, Francis J.
Jelinek, John J.
Jeskalis, Edward
John, Pavlos H.
Johnson, Chester W.
Jones, Everett W.
Kaminski, Genevieve R.
Kania, Francis
Karagianakis, John L.
Keeney, David Nelson
Keeney, Gordon Henry
Keeney, Roger Moore
Kellem, Clarence E.
Kellem, George W.
Kellner, Carl A.
Kellner, Carl S.
Kelley, Joseph D.
Kennedy, John T.
Keune, August
Kingsbury, Charles H.
Kingsbury, Fred Dewey
Kington, William E.
Kleindienst, John G.
Klisko, John
Kobak, Joseph A.
Koch, Clarence F.
Koratieus, Felix
Koschwitz, Fritz
Krause, Albert W.
Krause, Hillmar
Krause, Plenny G.
Kreh, Henry Almer
Kriz, Benjamin
Kulo, Joseph
Kwiatkowski, John
Kynoch, William A.
LaChapell, Victor T.
Ladish, William O.
Landers, John L.
Lanz, Charles Erwin
Lassow, Curtis W.
Lathrop, Perry A.
Laubscher, Louis K.
Laubscher, Martin P.
Lebeskevsky, Harry
Lee, Christopher A.
Lee, William
Lehmann, Paul C.
Lerner, Herman C.
Lessig, Albert R.
Lewis, Harry Y.
Liebe, Milton R.
Liebe, William C.
Lisk, Charles G.
Lisk, Henry
Little, Alfred F.

## VERNON HONOR ROLL, WORLD WAR I

Litz, Frederick A.
Litz, William E.
Loeffler, Albert H.
Loomis, Harold F.
Loomis, Rodney L.
Loos, William Emil
Lee, Asa R.
Lounsbury, Harold C.
Lucas, Alex S.
Luetjen, Fred W. G.
Luetjen, William Otto
Lutton, Thomas J.
Lutton, William J.
Lutz, John
Lutz, Charles Frank
Lynch, William F.
Madden, Thomas J.
Maher, John
Mahoney, George J.
Mann, Elton A.
Marcinowski, Benjamin J.
Markert, Henry J.
Marley, William P.
Marshnoske, Frank P.
Martley, Francis J.
Mason, Albert L.
Mataitis, Clemens
May, Otto F.
Maynard, Leroy D.
McCorriston, David J.
McCarthy, Charles E.
McGray, John S.
McIntosh, James L.
McKenna, Raymond
McKenna, John J.
McNally, James
McNally, Thomas W.
McNeill, Maine R.
Mead, Nelson C.
Mehr, Howard
Menge, Paul
Meredith, Edward G.
Merrell, Leslie C.
Mertens, Arthur
Mertens, William K.
Metcalf, Elliot H.
Metcalf, Joseph H.
Metcalf, Mildred A.
Miller, Alexander B.
Miller, Charles A.
Miller, Emil H.
Miller, George
Miller, John H.
Miller, Julius
Miller, Leslie W.
Miller, Nathan
Miller, Walter Carl
Mills, Claude A.
Minor, Joseph Eugene
Moaklar, Edward J.
Monahan, Raphael J.
Monnett, Frederick E.
Morgan, Clarence
Morgan, Joseph L.
Morrell, Arthur E.
Morrell, Leroy
Much, Fred Herman
Mulligan, Francis J.
Murray, Raymond B.
Neill, Joseph S.
Neupert, Walter C.
Noad, Claude W.
North, Charles S.
North, Francis
North, Henry T.
North, William J.
North, Patrick W.
Nutland, Albert
Obenauf, Ernest
O'Hara, Hubert L.
O'Hara, John F.
Ohls, William L.
Orlowsky, William B.
Palozie, Frank
Pappas, James
Pennell, Edward F.
Pero, George E.
Perzanowski, Joseph
Philipp, Oscar F.
Pieniek, Frank
Pippin, Wilfred
Pitkat, William
Pitney, Louis P.
Playotes, Arestedes
Poehnert, William
Polenska, Helen E.
Polenska, Sophie B.
Prichard, Francis J.
Raisch, George F.
Ransom, Harold F.
Ransom, Leslie F.
Rawlings, John H.
Reed, Elmer L.
Regan, William F.
Reichard, Harry
Reid, Frederick J.
Reiske, Michael
Reiser, Frank Arno
Reuger, Raymond C.
Rich, George J.
Richter, William R.
Rider, George C.
Robbins, Myron Arthur
Rosenski, John
Rubazewicz, Alex.
Ryan, Stephen J.
Saba, Michael
Sadlak, William V.
St. Louis, Damase
Scheets, Arthur M.
Scheets, Walter H.
Scheibe, Jacob
Scheibe, John C.
Scheiner, Robert H.
Schindler, Ernest A.
Schlott, Paul O.
Schmeiske, Rudloph C.
Schneider, John
Schneider, William
Schnering, Conrad
Schook, Omer
Schortmann, Albert C.
Schreiter, Valentine G.
Schrump, Walter C.
Schweitzer, Fred J.
Schweitzer, John W.
Seibert, John
Sharp, Herbert E.
Shea, Thomas C.
Sherman, Nick I.
Skibiski, Carl H.
Skinner, Alden G.
Skoglund, Ernest L.
Smith, Charles A.
Smith, Henry P.
Smith, Joseph James
Smith, Louis J.
Smith, Louis J.
Smith, William J.
Spielman, Herbert A.
Spielman, Walter
Stachura, Frank J.
Stankiewicz, Bronislaw
Stegeman, F. C.
Stengel, Fred E.
Stengle, Edward P.
Stiles, David M.
Stralkowsky, Charles
Sucheski, Otto J.
Sullivan, James M.
Summer, William A.
Sweeney, Gertrude E.
Sweeney, Paul B.
Swider, Joseph
Sykes, Elmer H.

## VERNON HONOR ROLL, WORLD WAR I

Taft, Philip Henry
Taylor, George A.
Taylor, William Sloan
Thorp, Leon A.
Thrall, Frederick E.
Tobin, William J.
Thrapp, Charles W.
Thrapp, David
Trezoglou, Peter
Trinks, Frederick C.
Trinks, William H.
Tuller, Melvin L.
Turner, Elmer F.
Ulitach, Henry
Upham, George
Usher, Clarence A.
Wagner, John J.
Walther, Albert H.
Waszkiewicz, John
Weber, Charles Herman
Weber, Magnus R.
Webster, Andrew K.
Webster, Morton J.
Wetstein, Ralph S.
Wetstone, Max
Wheelock, Edward H.
White, Angelo
White, Ernest
White, Joseph A.
Willis, Alvin
Winship, Harold S.
Winter, Albert C.
Wolfe, George Charles
Wormstedt, Arthur C.
Wormstedt, Edward F.
Wormstedt, William O.
Wroblewski, Paul
Yanke, John E.
Yoreo, Dominic
Yoreo, Oliver A.
Yoreo, William
Young, Charles H.
Young, Frederick W.
Young, William A.
Zatryb, Louis A.
Zaugg, Ernest A.
Zeigler, Hugo

### (Supplement)

Avery, Leverett
Bartlett, William
Bean, Walter
Benton, Louis E.
Braude, Samuel H.
Carney, Arthur J.
Carroll, Robert E.
Chapman, David Buell
Danke, Paul
Dehuller, Julian
Dowgiewicz, Paul
Dunn, John E.
Elliott, J. Elmer
Fay, Edward
Fisk, Leon
Flechsig, Edward
Flynn, William H.
Friedrich, Henry
Gilnack, Frank
Gilanck, Joseph J.
Grous, John D.
Grumbach, Louis
Heller, Otto
Herig, Edward J.
Jelinek, Joseph H.
Kelly, Christopher
Kynoch, Jean
LaFlamme, Arthur J.
Lonsbury, Harold C.
MacDonald, Alexander
Mannel, Fred O.
Marcinowski, Frank P.
Martin, Lester W.
Miller James
Miller, Lewis
Moore, Joseph
Murphy, Thomas
Murray, Francis
Newman, Frank
Newmarker, Edward L.
Newmarker, Frank A.
O'Keefe, Walter
Page, Joseph H.
Peaslee, Arthur
Pfunder, Charles
Price, Walter
Schneider, George L.
Schrier, William
Shea, John F.
Shea, William J.
Simms, Issac
Smith, Robert
Stengle, Edward P.
Swan, Raymond D.
Welch, Ray J.
Wetstone, Murray
Willis, George
Woods, Lawrence W.
Young, Edward
Young, John F.

## THE "REHEARSAL" CELEBRATION

Like every other city and town in the entire country, Rockville and the Town of Vernon went wild on the afternoon and evening of November 7, 1918, when it was reported that the German representatives had signed the Allies' terms of armistice which meant "Unconditional Surrender." The men and women in the mills had scarcely had time to get down to their afternoon's work when the bells in the various churches and schools and factories began to peal and the mill-whistles to screech. Soon everybody had stopped working, the streets were thronged, and the celebration had begun.

Again bonfires, impromptu parades, and singing, and shouting were the order of the day. Every American carried a flag. On East Main Street the largest bonfire was built, and for hours it was replenished by contributions of packing-boxes, crates, wagons, and carriages. Fox Hill was also ablaze with a bonfire that was a beacon of victory for miles around until far after midnight. Not until the wee hours of the morning was the city quiet. It had been a wild night of jubilation; but it was only a "rehearsal"!

## THE "REAL" CELEBRATION

Word was received of the German signatures about half past three on Monday morning. Mayor Cameron immediately notified his committees, and by four o'clock the city was duly awakened. At half past four, by the light of the street illuminations, a service of praise and thanksgiving was held in Central Park, perhaps the most unique religious service ever held in the Town of Vernon. The Rev. Mr. Mathison announced the signing of the Armistice, Mr. A. E. Waite conducted the singing of the Doxology. The Rev. Father Michael H. May, pastor of St. Bernard's Church, read the Scripture lesson, the Rev. Mr. Percy E. Thomas offered the prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer in which all fervently united, the Rev. James L. Smith, assistant Pastor of St. Bernard's Church, closed the service by requesting all to join in the singing of "America," and the unprecedented service was at an end!

The rest of the day was spent in busily arranging for the great event of the evening.

By half past eight, the monster parade, over two miles in length and consisting of more than 5,000 people, including every race, creed, color, and element in the town, moved forward to the blare of bands in united jubilation that the world was freed of militaristic autocracy and of Kaiserism.

# WELCOME HOME DAY

in Honor of Those Who Served in the
WORLD WAR 1914-1919

The City of Rockville and the Town of Vernon paid a just and dignified honor to their soldier dead on Saturday, May 3, 1919, a perfect New England May day. In a parade led by returned soldiers and sailors, the State Guard and the Boy Scouts, our Grand Army and Spanish War Veterans, thousands of school children, members of patriotic and social organizations, and citizens of all walks of life, wended their way to the West District School grounds for the public exercises, where nineteen Ginkgo trees had already been planted and marked with names of Vernon's nineteen soldier dead. The trees were planted on Arbor Day, Friday, May 2, under the supervision of Horace A. Deal, Miss J. Alice Maxwell's gardener for many years.

After Mayor John Cameron's address, the following program was carried out:

Recitation—"Our Hero Dead".....Miss Dorothy McNeill
Flag Drill.....Pupils, Grammar Grades, East District School
Song.....Liberty Chorus
Recitation and song—"The Spirit of Arbor Day"
Pupils, Room 7, St. Bernard's School
Address—"Our Soldier Dead".....Rev. Percy E. Thomas
Song .....Liberty Chorus
Drill and Song..Pupils, Grammar Grades, West District School
Address by Hon. Marcus H. Holcomb, Governor of Connecticut
Song—"America".....Sung by Everybody
Benediction.....Rev. M. H. May

A short concert was given by the Governor's Foot Guard Band and the Rockville City Band. Col. Francis J. Regan, on the Staff of Governor Holcomb, attended with the entire staff as his guests, and headed the parade in one of the biggest events ever held in the City.

Rockville City Band appeared for the first time in new uniforms, donated by Col. Francis J. Regan at a cost of $1,000.

A resolution of thanks for the purchase and planting of the Ginkgo trees was presented by City Clerk John N. Keeney, and was heartily adopted by the City Council.

Following are the names on plaques near the Memorial Trees.

There are four additional trees without names.

Private Frank A. Badsteubner—died August 1, 1918
Private Stanley Dobosz—died April 20, 1918
Private John T. Kennedy—died November 4, 1918
Private Harold C. Lounsbury—died April 18, 1918
Private William B. Orlowsky—died August 15, 1918
Private John Rosenski—died October 15, 1918
Private Carl H. Skibiski—died October 14, 1918
Private William Cahill—died September 24, 1918
Private Leon Fisk—died January 27, 1918
Private Benjamin Heller—died October 7, 1918
Private August Keune—died September 24, 1918
Private Wm. Kington—died September 18, 1918
Sergeant John G. Kleindienst—died March 21, 1919
Private Fred J. Schweitzer—died October 1, 1918
Private Elmer H. Sykes—died October 11, 1918
1st Class Private Elmer F. Turner—died February 7, 1919
Private Alfred G. Berr—died October 8, 1918

## THE GINKGO TREE

The Ginkgo was introduced into America from China and Japan, where it has been grown for centuries in temple gardens. It has long been cultivated in northeastern United States as an ornamental and shade tree, particularly for street planting. It reaches a height of 60 to 80 feet and has a single erect trunk continuous into the crown.

The flowers appear in May; the male and female flowers are borne on separate trees. The female flowers develop into a stone fruit with a malodorous, fleshy outer layer, which, when the fruit falls, makes pavements slippery and disagreeable. For that reason, only trees that bear male flowers should be planted. In autumn the blossoms turn bright yellow and fall from the tree within a few days.

The Ginkgo tolerates unfavorable city conditions, and a wide range of soil conditions. It withstands wind and ice storms and is free from serious pests.

## STANLEY DOBOSZ POST NUMBER 14—AMERICAN LEGION

After having given consideration to the advisability of forming an organization of Americans who served in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps during the World War, a caucus was held March

15-17, 1919, in Paris. Tentatively, plans were drawn up and the name "American Legion" was adopted. A second caucus was held at St. Louis May 6-10, 1919, which was attended by ex-service men from most of the States of the United States of America.

On November 11, 1919, at Minneapolis, the first meeting of the American Legion as such was held, and a Constitution adopted. In Rockville, Connecticut, a group met to form an organization of American veterans of the World War on June 3, 1919. The meeting took place in the Town Hall. About fifteen men were present. The sentiment prevailed that the local veterans of the World War should form an organization, and to conduct its business Martin Laubscher, Jr., Edward Newmarker and Thomas Shea were respectively elected to the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, the last two offices being filled by the same man.

At a meeting of the veterans on June 12, 1919, it was decided that the local group apply for a charter in the American Legion. That was granted by the National Headquarters. It bears July 1, 1919, as its date, and contains thirty names of the charter members. The Post was numbered 14, which shows the relative earliness at which the Rockville veterans applied for membership in the American Legion as a Post.

The charter was received by Post 14 on September 2, 1919. The Post decided on February 10, 1920, to take the name of the Post Stanley Dobosz in honor of the first local service man to fall in the World War.

In addition to the relief of needy World War veterans, they have placed grave markers on all the graves of deceased World War veterans in this locality and they decorate those graves on each Decoration Day. They also hang wreaths on the World War veterans' memorial trees and the Honor Roll Board on Decoration Day and Armistice Day.

The Grand Army Room in the Town and Memorial Hall is still of interest to all patriots. Here on display are relics permitted by the government—six Civil War guns, Springfield rifles, two Civil War swords and an assortment of Civil War flags. Years ago there were three separate records of these souvenirs in the possession of the Willeke Brothers, John Henry Yost and Leverett Charter. But all the four have passed on, and the records are no more.

Causes:

(1) The Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

(2) The idea that it was our duty to crush Japanese aggression in the Far East and Fascist-Nazi aggression in Europe and Africa.

Results:

(1) The Axis Powers were defeated.

(2) The United Nations Organization was created to promote world peace.

# TOWN OF VERNON HONOR ROLL, WORLD WAR II

## COMPLETE SERVICE ROSTER

Allard, John L.
Allard, Napoleon G.
Allen, Erwin
Allen, Matthew P.
Alley, Malcolm R.
Ambrosi, Bruno E.
Amende, Clayton
Amende, Earl
Andrews, Roland C.
Andrews, Russell E.
Archacki, Frank
Archacki, Peter J.
Arn, Frederick A.
Arzt, Kenneth A.
Arzt, Paul F.
Ashe, William V.
Ashland, Edward L.
Avery, Frederick C.
Avery, George W.
Babcock, Frederick H.
Backofen, Charles G.
Backofen, Edwin F.
Backofen, Ernest P.
Backofen, Frederick H.
Backofen, Richard A.
Backofen, W. Alan
Babsteubner, Arthur F.
Baer, Karl W.
Baer, Raymond C.
Bagnall, Charles I.
Baker, Percy W.
Baker, Peter J., Jr.
Baldwin, Wilbur J.
Baran, Joseph F.
Barbero, Alfred D.
Barbero, Anne A.
Barbero, Francis C.
Barbero, John R.
*Barrette, Leonard J.
Barrows, Edward C.
Barrows, William
Bartlett, Nelson W.
Bartley, Raymond J.
Baskowski, Anthony S.
Baskowski, Wm. S.
Bastek, Helen RN
Bastek, John A.
Bateman, Walter
Baxter, Wilfred H.
Beal, Bruce H.
Belanger, John H.
Belanger, Walter J.
Belleviau, Raymond J.
Bentley, Bernard A.
Bentley, James W.
Berck, Eugene L.
Berrett, Leon G.
Berriault, Aldie R.
Berriault, Edward
Berriault, Norman
Berthold, Arthur
Berthold, Herbert R.
Berthold, Walter G.
Beyo, Edmund V.
Bielak, John J.
Bielak, Peter P.
Bielecki, Joseph G.
Bielecki, Walter
Bienkowski, Chester A.
Bik, Russell J.
Bilow, Alexander
Binheimer, Russell W.
Blake, Charles H.
Blinn, Earl P.
Bloniarz, Edward C.
Bloniarz, Frank C.
Blonstein, Samuel G.
Blotnicki, Leon J.
Blotnicki, Valerian S.
Bochenko, George H.
Bock, John E., Jr.
Boleski, Edward P.
Bonan, Robert A.
Bond, Raymond

Booth, John E.
Boothroyd, Harry W.
Bordua, Robert E.
Borkowski, Bruno J.
Borkowski, Chester W.
Borkowski, Francis Z.
Boron, John
Borst, Ernest
Boron, Stanley W.
Borst, Walter
Bosworth, Emerson H.
Bouchard, Jerry R.
*Boucher, Russell
Brauer, Walter E.
Brendel, Charles W., Jr.
Brenneman, John A., Jr.
Bresnahan, George J.
Bresnahan, Edward J.
Bronowitz, Sol L.
Bronson, Maurice J.
Brookes, Leslie
Brow, Louis A.
Brown, Edward C.
Brown, Ernest W.
Brown, Harvey S.
Brown, William C.
Burke, Francis H., M.D.
Burke, John, Jr.
Burke, Leonard R.
Burke, Raymond J.
Burke, Russell J.
Bprke, William T.
Burnett, Richard D.
Burns, Robert F.
Burns, William E.
Buser, Henry D.
Butler, Henry F.
Bush, Edward H.
Byrnes, Edward T.
Byrnes, John K.
Byrnes, Frederick W.
Bvsczvnski, Stanley J.
*Campbell, Ralph M.
Capuano, Albert D.
Carlson, Edwin R.
Carlson, Richard O.
Cebula, Frank
Champ, Oliver C.
Champ, Victor N.
Chapdelaine, John L.
Chapman, Buell I.
Champman, Harold L.
Chapman, Norman B.
Chapman, William R.
Chase, Robert W.
Chemistruck, Alice
Chemistruck, Stephen A.
Chessey, Joseph J.
Chmielewski, Norbert
Chrzanowski, Anthony
Chrzanowski, Joseph
Chrzanowski, Stanley H.
Ciechowski, Aloysius
Ciechowski, Bernard B.
Ciuchta, William
Clark, Robert F.
*Clark, Roy H.
Coleman, Malcolm G.
Connors, Edward J.
Connors, Stephen H.
Cosgrove, William J.
Coville, Harry W.
Coville, Lawrence
Coville, Orrin A.
Crandall, Bardford S.
Cratty, Francis H.
Cratty, George F.
Cratty, Robert J.
Cratty, Thomas W.
Cronkile, Loomis P.
Curry, Beatrice M.
Cyrkiewicz, Joseph F.
Czarnecki, Bronislaw
Czarnecki, Walter F.
Czechura, Walter S.
Czerwinski, Joseph L.
Dailey, Alice
Dailey, Catherine B.
Dailey, Eleanor M.
Dalla Corte, Victor J.
Dancosse, Francis J.
Dancosse, Wilfred
Darcey, John C.
Darcey, Owen A.
Darico, Andrew, Jr.
Darico, William M.
Davies, Erwin R.
Davis, Erwin E.
Davis, Roy P.
Dawkins, Joan
Dawkins, John C.
Dawkins, Richard B.
Dawkins, Thomas H.
Decohaine, Wilfred
DeHulla, Donald R.
*DelBene, Eugene J.
DelBene, Francis J.
DelBene, Howard J.
Denley, Donald F.
Denley, Ralph H.
Denson, Gordon A.
DePellegrini, Jeanne M.
DePellegrini, Wm. C.
Deptula, John M.
Deptula, Lawrence S.
Devlin, Elizabeth M.
Devlin, James F.
Dick, James W.
Dintsch, Edward M.
Dobosz, Anthony P.
Dobosz, Frank L.
Dobosz, John A.
Dobosz, Peter J.
*Doherty, Joseph A.
Doherty, Joshua L.
Domain, Donald A.
Dombek, Edward J.
Doss, Philip G.
Dowding, Kenneth W., Jr.
Dowgiewicz, Anthony S.
Dowgiewicz, Leonard P.
Dowhan, Wesley P.
Downes, William M.
Dunfield, Robert E.
Dunn, Carlton W.
Dureiko, Francis
Edmondo, Peter A.
Edmondson, James V.
Edwards, Arthur E.
Edwards, Irvin E.
Edwards, Thomas W.
Edwards, Walter F.
Einsiedel, Elwin G.
Elderkin, George D.
Ellsworth, Betty R.
Ellsworth, Robert M.
Erismann, Ernest E.
Erismann, Erwin L.
Erismann, Walter H.
Ertel, Joseph F.
Ertel, Thomas
*Ertel, Vincent G.
Ertel, William C., Jr.
Fagan, Wayne R.
Fahey, Edmund R.
Fahey, James R.
Fahey, James W., Jr.
Fahey, Raphael D.
Farr, Henry A.
Farr, Lawrence
Fayey, Raymond C.
Farrell, Robert B.
Fecteau, Oscar A.
Felden, Erwin C.
Ferguson, Roy C., Jr.
Ferreri, Louis
Fetko, Joseph F.
Filip, Charles J.
Filip, Francis C.
Finley, Clarence W.
Finley, Clarence W., Jr.

Fisher, Arthur E.
Fisk, Douglas H.
Flaherty, Leo B.
Flamm, Wilton E.
Fleischer, Kenneth M.
Fleischer, Norman P.
Fleischer, Raymond W.
Foley, Frederick J., Jr.
Forbes, Franklin B., Jr.
Forster, George B.
Fox, William G.
Francis, Warren C.
Francis, Wilfred
Frey, Leo J.
Friedrich, Gordon
Friedrich, Herbert H.
Futoma, Edward A.
Futoma, Francis S.
Gakeler, George H.
Garneski, Stephen
Genovesi, Carlo
Gerber, Emanuel C.
Gerber, Ralph E.
Gessay, Andrew J.
Gessay, A. L., D.D.S.
Gessay, Charles M.
Gessay, Emil J.
Gessay, Frederick F.
Gessay, Francis J.
Gessay, Louis H., M.D.
Gessay, Stephen S.
Gessay, Thomas E.
Giglio, Harry E.
Gill, Edward B.
Gill, Louis W.
Gill, Stanley A.
Gillich, Ferdinand
Gillich, Genevieve B.
Gillich, John
Glaeser, Alfred W.
Glass, George W.
Gleason, James H.
Godomski, Josephus J.
Golemba, Leonard F.
Golemba, Joseph
Golemba, Stanley, Jr.
Gollmitzer, John R.
Gollmitzer, Joseph F.
Goodrich, Gerald
Gorczynski, Raymond A.
Godzdz, Zigmund
Graczyk, Henry
Graczyk, Joseph
Graczyk, Theodore W.
Graczyk, Walter
Graczyk, William, Jr.
Graf, Carl W.
Grant, Harold W.
Green, Arthur P.
Green, George S.
Green, Raymond W.
Gregel, Emil J.
Gregus, George
Gregus, Robert J.
Griffin, Joseph F.
Groleau, Edward
Gronski, Chester S.
Grous, Bernard
Grous, Leo A.
Grous, Rudolph
Gruenig, Paul
Grumbach, Robert
Guidotti, Alfred E.
Guidotti, Richard C.
Gunn, Edgar F.
Gunn, Neal M., Jr.
Guzowski, Alfred
Gworek, Edward F.
Gworek, Joseph P.
Gworek, Richard J.
Halchek, Stephen
Halloran, John M.
Hamm, Edward G.
Hansen, Harry
Harding, Frederick F.
Harris, Richard L.
Harris, Robert F.
Harrison, Samuel G.
Hartmann, George N.
Hartmann, Raymond F.
Hartmann, Russell G.
Hebenstreit, Clarence M.
Hebenstreit, Joseph A.
Hebenstreit, William L.
Heck, Clarence K.
Heer, Edward G.
Heffron, John F.
Heintz, Charles E., Jr.
Hewitt, Frederick H.
Hewitt, Frank A.
Hewitt, Frank H.
Hicton, William J.
Hietela, Theodore A.
Hill, Harry G.
Hiller, Russell J.
Hirth, Charles E.
Hirth, Theodore A.
Hirth, Warren C.
Hoffman, Karl P.
Holman, Robert H.
Hopkins, Edwin W.
Hopowicz, Chester
Hosmer, Paul R.
Howard, Chester E.
Howard, Ernest M.
Hudson, Henry L.
*Hunniford, William, Jr.
Hyjek, Edwin R.
Hyjek, Rudolph
Hyjek, Stanley J., D.D.S.
Idziak, John C.
Irmischer, Oscar E.
Ivanicki, Anthony
Ivanicki, Edwin
Jacobs, Horace
Jakiel, John S.
Jalbert, Norman M.
Janton, Edward H.
Janton, Edward N.
*Janton, John J.
Jasek, Stephen
Jasion, Chester
Jasion, Francis
Jasion, Louis B.
Jelinek, Norman E.
Jesanis, Edward
Johndrow, George H.
Johndrow, Harold F.
Johndrow, W. W., Jr.
Jones, Walter E.
Jones, William W.
Jordan, Robert W.
Joyce, Harold L.
Joyce, James L.
Judge, Alfred J., Jr.
Kadelski, Joseph
Kadelski, Matthew
Kadelski, Stephen
Kadelski, Vincent
Kahan, Robert S.
Kaminski, Henry J.
*Kaminski, John A.
Kaminski, Maximillan
Kaminski, Nicodem
Kanski, Casimer M.
Kanski, Francis A.
Karkevich, Peter A.
Kauppik, Jerome F.
Kawalec, John
Kawalec, Stanley F.
Kayan, Edward J.
Kayan, Steven P.
Keeping, Douglas L.
Keller, Clinton E.
Kellner, Earl
Kellner, Erich A.
Kemble, Lester R.
Kent, George E.
Kernan, Thomas
Ketcham, Stephen E.
Kidney, Marshall J.

King, Robert J.
Kington, Ellery G.
Kita, Joseph
Klatt, Otto
Kleczowski, Albert
Kleczkowski, Stanley F.
Gleczkowski, William
Klette, Immanuel J.
Klette, Vernon C.
Kloter, Edward G.
Kloter, Ernest B.
Kloter, Nole R.
Kloter, Russell R.
Knight, Clifford B., Jr.
Knybel, Stanislaus A.
Knybel, Tony J.
Knybel, Walter W.
Koch, Arthur M.
Koch, Clarence F.
Kocher, William W.
Koschwitz, Alexander H.
Koschwitz, Carl F.
Koslowski, Stanley A.
Kowalewski, Joseph
Kozskowski, John
Kozlowski, Adam
Kozlowski, Chester
Kozlowski, Walter J.
Krajewski, Henry M.
Krajewski, Herman A.
Krajewski, John S.
Kramer, John L.
Kratzke, Russell H.
Krause, Earl H.
Krivsky, William A.
Krochenko, Arthur
Krupa, Frank G.
Kubasek, Edward J.
Kubasek, Steve A.
Kubik, Walter
Kuch, Joseph A.
Kuchenski, Anthony K.
Kucz, John A., Jr.
Kuhnly, Kenneth W.
Kuhnke, Herbert L.
Kulick, George L.
Kulick, John F.
Kulo, Edward T.
Kulo, Edwin W.
Kulo, Frank
Kulo, John F.
Kunicki, Michael
Kunicki, Raymond
Kunicki, Stanley
Labots, William A.
LaCrosse, Felix F.
LaCrosse, Francis J.
Lambert, Maxwell, Jr.
LaMothe, Rene A.
LaMothe, Wilfred F.
Lanz, Elmer P.
Lanz, Howard E.
Lanz, Otto E.
Lapointe, Gerard N.
Larson, Bernard W.
Lathrop, James F.
Lavallee, Ernest H.
Lavoie, Henry J.
Layman, Cecelia
Layman, Louis
Lebeshevsky, Saul H.
LeBlond, Joseph P.
Lee, Christopher W.
Lee, Emil
*Lee, Herbert F.
Lee, Raymond C.
Legge, Wilbur H.
Lehrmitt, Donald
Lehrmitt, Edwin
Lehrmitt, Raymond C.
Lemek, Chester
Lemek, Frank T.
Lemek, John
Lemek, Stanley J.
Lemek, Valerian J.
Lemieux, Arthur H.
Lentocha, Bernard F.
Lentocha, Edward A.
Lentocha, George V.
Lentocha, John L.
Lentocha, Leonard R.
Lessig, Carlton F.
Lessig, Edwin F.
Lessig, Robert A.
Lewis, Frederick R.
Lebsch, Joseph F.
Lippmann, Robert E.
Lisk, Burton R.
Lisk, Carleton N.
Lisk, Kerwin O.
Lisk, Wilton A.
Liszewski, Edwin F.
Liszewski, Emil F.
Little, Francis H.
Little, Herbert
Little, Sterling F.
Loalbo, Edward
Loalbo, John M.
Long, Sterling
Loos, William
Lotas, John C.
Lotas, Thomas
Loverin, Donald B.
Loverin, Robert P.
Luba, Joseph L.
Luddecke, William F.
Ludwig, Raymond A.
Luetjen, Harold F.
Luetjen, Herman M.
Luffman, Clifford J.
Lugg, Harry H.
Lukasiewski, Nick S.
Lukasiewski, Steve B.
Lukeman, Joseph F.
Lukowski, Vincent J.
Lusa, Bruno
Lusa, Peter J.
Luszczki, Stanley M.
Machowski, Frederick J.
Machowski, Raymond J.
Mack, Francis L.
Mack, John C.
Madden, James M.
Magdefrau, Edmund A.
Maguire, Earl J.
Mahr, Frederick P.
Mahr, Mary J., RN
Mallon, John P.
Mallon, William F.
Mamuszka, Edward S.
Manchuck, Leonard J.
Markham, Wilber W.
Marley, James T., Jr.
Marley, William P.
Marquis, Louis S.
Masichuk, Harry
Mathewson, Clifford W.
Mattis, Bruno M.
Mattis, Edward J.
Mattis, Francis J.
Mattis, John
Matyia, Stanley C.
May, Guerino G.
Mayo, Arthur E.
Mayer, Ernest J.
McCarthy, Charles C.
McCarthy, James A.
McCormick, George M.
McCusker, Joseph A.
McDonald, Elmer
*McDonald, John T.
McFarlane, Henry J.
McGowan, James W.
McLaughlin, Edwin C.
McLaughlin, Francis E.
McLaughlin, Harold
McLaughlin, Henry
McLaughlin, Richard L.
McMann, Edgar
McNulty, John
*McNulty, James

Meacham, Fred W.
*Meacham, Raymond E.
Mead, Harry B.
Meade, Kenneth J.
Meade, Russell C.
Meader, Ray L.
Melesko, Edward V.
Melesko, John
Menge, Carleton P.
Menge, Luther P.
Merk, Randall
Mertan, Andrew P.
Mertan, George D.
Merz, Raymond S.
Miffitt, Albert
Miffitt, Arthur E.
Miffitt, Joseph F.
*Mikalonis, Alphonse R.
*Milanese, Clarence W.
Milanese, Carlton H.
Miller, Alfonso J.
Miller, Donald J.
Miller, Harry A.
Miller, Irwin
Miller, Max R.
Miller, Walter J.
*Miller, William M.
Mills, David S.
Milunus, Francis J.
Miner, Clarence E.
Miner, Lewis W.
Minor, Henry S.
Misailko, Alexander
Misaiko, Frank
Mitchell, William L.
Mlodzinski, Matthew S.
Mlodzinski, Thaddeus F.
Managhan, Charles R.
Managhan, Clifton
Managhan, Lawrence.
Moore, William R., Jr.
Morin, Edmond, Jr.
Moyer, Robert M.
Mulka, Charles
Murach, John S.
Murphy, Eleanor
Murphy, Henry R.
Murphy, Joseph D.
Murphy, Robert D.
Murphy, Thomas J.
Murphy, Walter J.
Murray, Charles W.
Naughton, Patrick
Neff, Donald K.
Neff, Donald R.
Neill, Gifford W.
Nelson, Ernest E.
Neri, Libero
Neumann, Wilbur D.
Neupert, Elmer H.
Newell, Everett L.
Newell, Robert C.
Nicewicz, Chester J.
Nielsen, Lester
Nielsen, Theodore M.
Niese, Leonard C.
Niese, Raymond C.
Niewinski, Felix J., Jr.
Norkon, Albert
North, Robert F.
Novak, Frank
Novak, Joseph S.
Novak, Stanley P.
Nowak, Alfred S.
Nutland, Robert E.
O'Brien, James W.
Oleksinski, William
Olender, Joseph B.
Olesik, Emil W.
Olesik, Michael W.
Olesik, Stephen A.
Oliva, Joseph
Oliver, Edward P.
Oliver, Stephen
Olk, Leon E.
Olk, Theodore S.
O'Loughlin, John J.
Orlowski, Aloysius J.
Orlowski, Frederick
Orlowski, John F.
Orlowski, John J.
Orlowski, Louis A.
Orlowski, Mitchell J.
Ortyl, Francis J.
Ortyl, Stanley J.
Ortyl, Walter N.
Ortyl, William M.
Ostien, Harry E.
Ostrout, Robert E.
Otto, Wilbur W.
Padegimas, Charles F.
Paluska, Earl W.
Pasternak, Alexander R.
Pasternak, Carl F.
Pawelski, Clarence B.
Pawluk, Nicholas
Peck, Raymond J.
Perotti, Peter
Perzanowski, Mary, RN
Perzanowski, John S.
Pestritto, Constance M.
Pfau, Frederick
Phelps, Harry J.
Phillipp, Allen O.
Phillipp, Francis
Phillips, Anthony T.
Phillips, Edward J.
Phillips, Francis E.
Phillips, John S.
Pichette, Albert
Pichette, John
Pichette, Louis J.
Pierre, Clarence R.
Pierre, Eudore A. J.
Pierce, Robert R.
Pigeon, Robert J.
Pinney, Harry W.
Piorek, Henry F.
Pitkat, Charles A.
Pitkat, Everett C.
Pitkat, Francis J.
Pitkat, Frederick T.
Pitts, Arthur J.
Pliska, William L.
Plummer, Harriet, RN
Plummer, Mary
Plummer, Willard N.
Pitkat, Edward A.
Poehnert, Donald G.
Poehnert, W. Edward
Polinski, Theodore
Pollio, Seraphen
Popick, Stephen M.
Poreda, Theodore J.
Prachniak, Chester W.
Prachniak, Edward
Prachniak, Joseph
Prachniak, Stanislaw
Pratt, John L.
Pratt, Robert J.
Pray, George R.
Prelle, Charles E.
Prentice, Ernest
Prentice, John
Prentiss, Elmer
Pruess, Norman J.
Pruess, William J.
Prokop, Paul H.
Prutting, Robert D.
Prutting, William C.
Pschichholtz, Raymond C.
Purnell, Ernest S.
Purnell, Kerwin F.
Purnell, Nelson K.
Raczkowski, Henry J.
Rady, John J .
Rankin, Robert W.
Rankin, Walter J.
Rau, Calvin
Rau, Frank W., Jr.
Ray, Andrew

Ray, Frederick
Read, Truman W.
Regan, Herbert J.
Regan, Thomas, Jr.
Regan, Walter C.
Reiske, Donald
Reiske, William
Remkiewicz, Frank
Remkiewicz, Jerome S.
Remkiewicz, Leo J.
Remkiewicz, Mitchell J.
Reudgen, William F.
Reynolds, R. Lewis
Reynolds, Warren
Rice, William E.
Rich, Madeline, RN
Richter, William R.
Richard, Donald E.
Richard, John, Jr.
Rivenburg, Edward
Rivenburg, Warren
Rizy, John
Rizy, Frank
Rizy, William
Robb, Edward J.
Robb, Ralph H.
Robidas, Roland A.
Robinson, Samuel E.
Rock, Gerard J.
Rodvan, Paul
Rogelus, Michael J.
Roman, Peter R.
Romeo, John
Ronan, Edward E., Jr.
Rondeau, Olin G.
Rosenberg, Alfred J.
Rosinski, Casimir A.
Rowe, Leon L.
Roy, Raymond R.
Royal, Leslie O.
Ryan, Howard
Ryan, Leroy G.
Sadlak, Antoni
Sadlak, Francis X.
Sadlak, Maximillian
Saternis, Michael L.
Satryb, Arthur B.
Satryb, William T.
Savitski, Serge P.
Schaeffer, Burton
Schaeffer, Charles W.
Schaeffer, Earl R.
Schaeffer, Gordon K.
Scheiner, Herbert L.
Scherwitzky, Marjorie
Scheuy, Allen E.
Scheuy, Norman B.
Schindler, Earl F.
Schlott, Frederick F.
Schmalz, Arthur H.
Schneider, Albert J.
Schneider, Elmer W.
Schneider, Ernest G.
Schneider, Norman R.
Schneider, Walter C.
Schneider, William, MD
Schortmann, John E.
Schortmann, Richard C.
*Schrumpf, Raymond, Jr.
Schub, Walter
Schumey, John E.
Scibek, Edward
Scibek, Stanislaw
Scibek, Stephen K.
Scibek, William
Sears, Roland C.
Seifert, Raymond A.
Sessions, Robert F.
Shapera, Harry A.
Shapera, Jacob, DDS
Sharp, Herbert E.
Shea, John D.
Sherburne, Carleton D.
Sherman, Kenneth B.
Sherman, Roberts
*Siedlik, Frank J.
Siedlik, Stanley
Siegel, Herman S.
Sierakowski, Francis J.
Sierakowski, Walter J.
Silhavy, Ernest T.
Silhavy, Henry E.
Silhavy, Louis J.
Skibiski, Emmanuel F.
Skinner, Donald
Skinner, G. Nelson
Skinner, Leroy B.
Sklodosky, Chester M.
Skoglund, Ernest L., Jr.
Skoglund, Leonard E.
Skoglianik, Stephen T.
Smiraglia, Paul S.
Smith, Donald E.
Smith, Edmund C.
Smith, Russell D.
Smith, William F.
Snadel, Edward F.
Snell, John J., Jr.
Snyder, John F., Jr.
Sojka, Edmund S.
Sojka, Stephen
Sojka, William, Jr.
Sokolowski, Matthew
Southwick, Lawrence O.
Spencer, Rexford P.
Spieker, Samuel A.
Spiller, Herbert W.
Squires, Russell J.
Staklinski, Charles J.
Starke, William C.
Stawarz, Edmund J.
Stegeman, Lynwood
Stein, Arthur P.
Stephenson, William H.
Stephenson, James
Stephen, John J.
Steppe, Charles F.
Steppe, Joseph W.
Steppen, Charles
Sternal, Anthony J.
Sternal, John M.
Stiles, William E.
Stone, Elmer E.
Stoneman, George C.
Strycharz, Bernard M.
Strycharz, Joseph
Strycharz, Thomas S.
St. Louis, Richard J.
St. Louis, Wilfred H.
Sullivan, Chester
*Sullivan, Clarence J.
*Sunega, Edward F.
Sunega, Joseph T.
Surdell, Edwin J.
Sutyla, Frank P.
Sutyla, Leon
Sweatland, George W.
Sweatland, Gilbert P.
Sweatland, John
Swiderski, Edward
Synal, Francis T., Jr.
Szalontai, Daniel S.
Szarek, Thaddeus S.
Szynal, Andrew J.
Szynal, Edward
Szynal, John W.
Szynal, Joseph
Talcott, John G., Jr.
Tansey, William E.
Tarasek, Stanley E.
Taylor, Alan B.
Taylor, Woodrow
Terrill, Vincent R.
Thayer, Winslow B.
Thompson, Alberti
Thrall, Charles M.
Thrall, Wallace H.
Tobin, Raymond S.
Tobin, William S.
Tomasek, Francis J.
Tomasek, Frederick J.

Tomko, Andrew J.
Tompkins, Louis F.
Tourtellot, Carl D.
Trapp, Charles, Jr.
Trapp, George A.
Troughton, Margaret I.
Trouton, Luther F.
Tucker, Reuben
Tucker, Thomas
Tupper, Bion P.
Turner, James S.
Turner, John G.
Tyler, Nelson E.
Tyler, Ralph
Uhlman, Henry W.
*Underwood, Robert C.
Usher, Alvin J.
Usher, Charles E.
Usher, Robert
Uziemblo, Edward
Vietts, John
Vincent, Robert
Virth, John
Visius, John
Wagenett, Frank
Waite, Allen H.
Waite, Robert E.
Wandzy, Edward W.
Williams, Robert C.
Wandzy, John J.
Wandzy, Leon S.
Wandzy, Walter
Wasilefsky, Anthony G.
Webb, Richard L.
Weber, Clarence
Weber, Clayton H.
Weber, Edward L.
Weber, Edward R.
Weber, Gilbert C.
Weber, Norman A.
Weber, William H.
Weber, William R.
Welles, Gordon
Welles, James W.
Wells, Gordon F.
Welti, Clarence W.
Welz, Henry A., Jr.
Welz, William F.
Wendheiser, Francis N.
Wendus, Edward
Werkhoven, Hylke
Werkhoven, Theunis
West, Helen K.
West, Herbert A.
West, Horace E.
West, Thomas W.
Wheelock, Edward
Whelan, Charles
Whelan, Raymond A.
White, William E.
Wicykowski, Edward F.
Wieliczka, Francis A.
Wieliczka, Kasimer J.
Wieliczka, Stanley T.
Wierzchowski, John J.
Willeke, Charles J.
Wilhelm, Edwin J.
Williams, Burton P.
Williams, Louis
Willey, Henry F.
Willis, Clifford
Willis, Edward
Wilson, Clarence
Wilson, Elmer H.
Wilson, Elmer H.
Winter, Conrad E.
Wirtella, Edwin W.
Wise, Roland
Wisnieski, Stanley J.
Wnuk, Andrew
Wnuk, Valer J.
Wocel, Frank L.
Wohellebe, Raymond G.
Wojnar, John W.
Wojtach, Walter A.
Wolfersdorf, Oscar M.
Wrona, Francis J.
Wrona, Marion J.
Wrona, William J.
*Yanishewsky, John B.
*Yanishewsky, Terry
Yoreo, James A.
*Yost, Byron P.
Yost, John H., Jr.
Yost, Walter
Zadorozny, Edward
Zagora, Bruno A.
Zagura, Joseph L.
Zagura, Louis J.
Zaresky, Alexander
Zashut, Henry B.
Zbyk, Anthony J.
Zbyk, Francis
*Ziebarth, Frank E.
Ziegler, John A.
Ziegler, Richard T.
Ziemba, Casimer J.
Ziemba, Ladimer W.
*Zuraw, Edward
Zuraw, Henry F.
Zwingelstein, Louis

## WOMEN IN THE WAR

Many women served actively with the Armed Forces of this Country, the WAACS, the WAVES, the WOWS and the WAFS as well as the nurses commissioned as officers, all of whom did work formerly done in wars by the Army and Navy. They endured the same hardships and served with the same distinction as their brothers.

There were other women working side by side with men in the defense plants, doing heavy work and work calling for great skill.

Others found their place in Civilian Defense as air raid wardens, plane spotters, workers at report centers, first aid specialists,

home nurses, motor corps drivers, makers of surgical dressings and sellers of war stamps and bonds.

Some found it impossible to do anything outside their homes, but there they maintained the health of their families cooking nourishing meals with the food available.

## ELKS PATRIOTISM

The Rockville Lodge of Elks is 100% American.

From the time the matter of Civilian Defense first started, they showed themselves more than ready and willing to cooperate with the officials entrusted with the safety of the community.

They offered the use of their library on the northwest corner of the club for a control room, an ideal place for men and women who volunteered or were drafted to do this work which was so essential. Heat and light were supplied by the Elks, something which might otherwise have proved to be a great expense to the town and city. In other surroundings, the two hours which were what most individuals put in during the week might have been much more unpleasant.

Still another room was given up by the Club, this time to the Red Cross for a room in which surgical dressings were to be made, and the community was grateful. Surgical dressings can not be made in any place. This room was used two or three days a week.

## V-E DAY

VE Day, long awaited by millions, came at last on Tuesday, May 8, 1945, and one phase of the global war which since September 1, 1939, had affected every corner of the world, came to a close.

The surrender of Germany was brought about by the greatest cooperative effort the world has ever known. Every land, including Russia and the United States joined forces with one common purpose—to bring about the defeat of the Nazis, who, ever since Hitler's accession to power in 1933 had been bent on conquest. In accomplishing this purpose, the Big Three had invaluable aid from the underground movements in the conquered countries. Not powerful enough to carry on the fight against the enemy with arms, these countries nevertheless had a spirit which could not be broken.

There have been many dark days since the war began, days when it took courage to believe that the mighty war machine of the Reich could ever be stopped. Probably the blackest day on the Western Front came in May, 1940, at Dunkirque. Never were the Nazis so near victory as then. There were other dark moments afterward, even as late as December 16 of that year, when those at home wondered anxiously just how much the German "Break through" meant.

The costs of this victory were terrific. Whole cities, one might almost say whole countries, were laid waste. It was total war. Buildings, bridges, and cities can be rebuilt in time. What can never be replaced is human lives, both military and civilian. This is the greatest tragedy of all.

The defeat of Germany was absolute. Unconditional surrender was what was asked, and unconditional surrender was what was obtained, not just to the United States and England, but also to Russia. Total war became total victory.

Joy over V-E Day in the United States was tempered by the realization that there was still a major war to be won against another ruthless enemy, Japan. Not until this enemy had been conquered was a real celebration justified. Peace in the Pacific as well as in Europe.

History has a way of repeating itself. Remember 1918, there was a premature observance of the armistice, with the official day coming about four days later.

Twenty-seven years later, on Saturday, April 28, a rumor of Germany's surrender spread and the Times Square in New York was filled with excited people. Negotiations were in progress, but about nine days elapsed between rumor and actuality.

The Armistice in 1918 came as a surprise, whereas V-E Day had been anticipated for several weeks.

Woodrow Wilson, President during World War I, was able to join in the rejoicing at its conclusion. To President Franklin D. Roosevelt, during World War II, death came less than four weeks before Germany's unconditional surrender.

## THE VICTORY CELEBRATION

On Tuesday, August 14, 1945, at 7 p.m. when the first sentence of the broadcast from Washington came over the radio, automobile horns started blowing in the center of the city, to be joined

shortly by the fire whistle, sirens, mill whistles and church bells. Crowds began to gather in increasing numbers, while automobiles, already decorated and with horns blowing madly, rushed around. Flags were collected and stores that were open did a rushing business in confetti and noisemakers. Most stores closed immediately.

When the news first came, the City Council was holding a regular meeting, and had probably the briefest session in its history, after which the Mayor, members of the Council and reporters rushed into the Police Office to hear the announcement.

The parade got under way after dark. At the head came a band made up of local musicians from various organizations. Next came servicemen home on furlough and veterans of World War II. Then came Co. C State Guard, the American Legion and Auxiliary, the Elks carrying red torches, the firemen and fire apparatus. Boy and Girl Scouts, the Red Men and Pocahontas, groups from the Red Cross, including a large number of Nurses' Aides, boys and girls from local schools.

After the marchers came automobiles and trucks. A big bonfire was started on grounds at the Recreation Center. The celebration ended about 2 A.M. It was a celebration to be remembered. Everybody had been looking forward to it for three years, eight months and eight days.

## DEDICATION OF HONOR ROLL IN CENTRAL PARK

The Honor Roll was dedicated Sunday afternoon, March 7, 1943. The Town of Vernon was proud. It was a worthy symbol of the services which those whose names are inscribed upon it gave to their town, their state and their country.

The gathering of necessary information before even a start could be made represented hours of painstaking work and investigation on the part of the Committee, especially the secretary, Mrs. Mae D. Chapman. It was necessary to secure a comprehensive list of names.

The day of the dedication was not ideal. George Milne had the space cleared of snow.

The Honor Roll will linger long in memory. Dedication Services were held in Central Park with Governor Baldwin as main speaker. He urged all his listeners to plant war gardens, think about next winter, and stimulate the production of food, thus helping rationing. Governor Baldwin said, "Every man, woman and child

in the community should be able to say about the war effort, 'I am taking a part. I am helping.'" (Raymond E. Baldwin)

Gun Captain John Laboc spoke. The exercises were held around the Honor Roll Board with more than 500 people present. The 79th Coast Artillery Band played marches preceding exercises opened at 3 p.m. by Chairman of the Vernon Defense Council George S. Brookes. First Selectman Ernest Schindler and Mayor Raymond E. Hunt were introduced and the latter presided over the rest of the program.

The invocation was given by Rev. Eugene Solega, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Church.

Gun Captain John Laboc, honorably discharged from service in the Navy following injuries received in the battle of the Solomons, said that we at home are unmolested because these men are out fighting and dying for us. American youth saw to it that the Solomons were a victory for us and will see to it that Europe is a victory for us also. He spoke of his brother who died a hero's death.

The Honor Roll was dedicated by Past Department Adjutant William C. Murray of Hartford. The Honor Roll then had 559 names upon it and three gold stars, these latter opposite the names of Vincent Ertel, Russell Boucher, and William Miller. Only those whose legal residence is in the town of Vernon were included among the names.

The ceremonies concluded with the benediction by Rev. H. B. Olmstead, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church.

### THE WEST END ROLL OF HONOR

Although many of the boys' names enrolled in the Armed Forces were on the Town Honor Roll in Central Park, the residents of West End felt they wanted to honor their own. In the small park at the intersection of Windsor Avenue and Union, they put their honor roll.

## VERNON HONOR ROLL, WORLD WAR II

### DIED IN SERVICE

Barrette, Leonard J.
Beyer, Heinz P.
Boucher, Russell
Campbell, Ralph M.
Clark, Roy H.
Delbene, Eugene J.
Doherty, Joseph A.
Ertel, Vincent G.
Hunniford, William J.
Janton, John J.
Kaminski, John A.
Lee, Herbert F.
McDonald, John T.
McNulty, James
Meacham, Raymond E.

Mikalonis, Alphonse B.
Milanese, Clarence W.
Miller, William M.
Schrumpf, Raymond, Jr.
Siedlik, Frank J.
Sullivan, Clarence J.
Underwood, Robert C.
Yanishewsky, John B.
Yanishewsky, Terry
Yost, Byron P.
Ziebarth, Frank E.
Zuraw, Edward

## TOWN OF VERNON HONOR ROLL

### DEDICATED

The Town of Vernon Honor Rall which stood on the south side of Central Park since the early days of World War II was taken down and replaced by a permanent memorial of stone. It did not carry a list of names, but had an appropriate inscription. The passing years had completely ruined the appearance of the older one.

The new Honor Roll "in honor and memory of the men and women of the Town of Vernon who so gallantly served their country in World Wars" was dedicated quietly and reverently on Saturday afternoon, February 24, 1951, in Central Park.

Taps were sounded by Max Kabrick and Roy Kabrick. Rev. Forrest Musser, pastor of Union Congregational Church, gave an appropriate address. Rev. Patrick J. Mahoney, pastor of St. Bernard's Catholic Church, pronounced the benediction, which prayer concluded the dedicatory exercises.

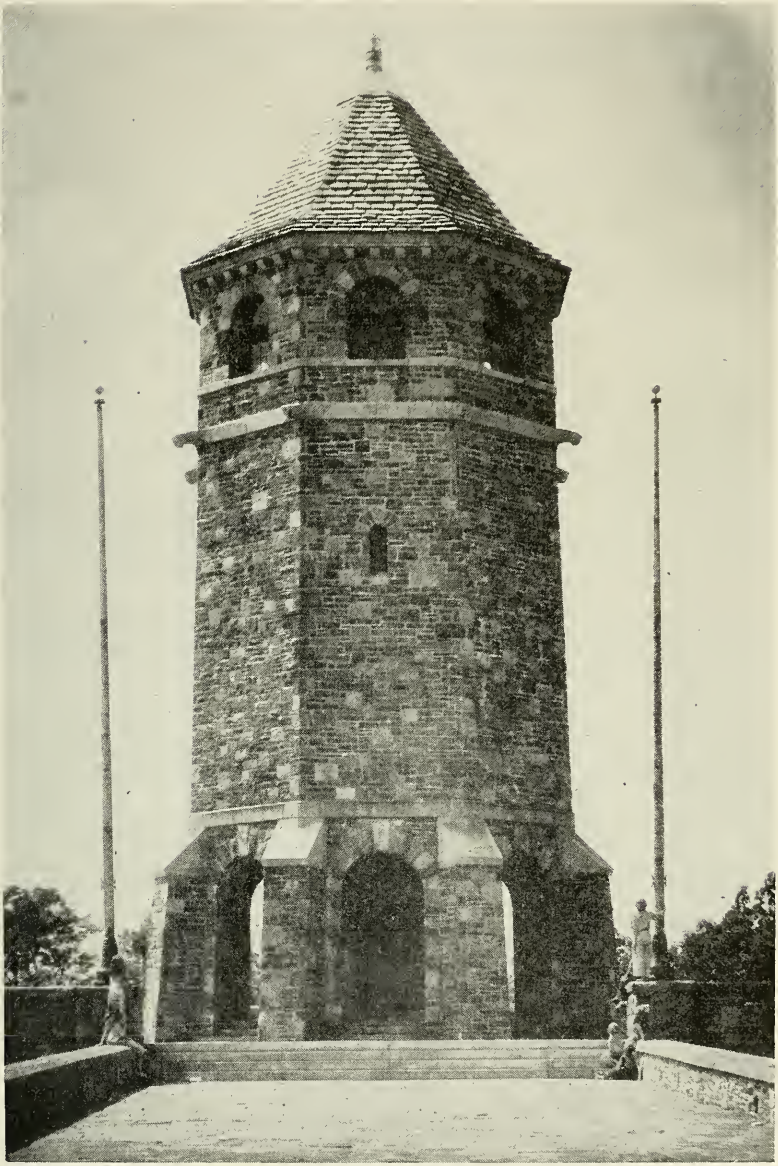
### WAR MEMORIAL TOWER

The dedication of the War Memorial Tower on Fox Hill took place on a beautiful Saturday, August 5, 1939. This tower is dedicated to the Veterans of all wars from the Town of Vernon, and with the magnificent promenade cost approximately $75,000. The Work Projects Administration supplied the labor and materials, and the town, city and individuals contributed.

The design of the tower was suggested in part by an ancient Romanesque Church in France, near Poitiers. Founded nearly a thousand years before Columbus discovered America, it was old when the English, led by Edward the Black Prince, won their famous battle with the French in 1356 on the plains nearby.

The architect of the tower stated: "When I sketched it some years ago the old church was as vigorous as ever."

Fox Hill, located in Henry Park, was bequeathed to the city by E. Stevens Henry.



MEMORIAL TOWER ON FOX HILL

Music on the Carillon Bells of Union Church at 2 P.M. and 3 P.M.
Mrs. Doris Tennstedt Lutz, Carilloneur

Opening Selections by the American Legion Band

Singing of America by the audience

Invocation—Rev. Fred Errington,
Department Chaplain of the American Legion

Dedication of Flags by Stanley Dobosz Post No. 14 American Legion

Address by His Excellency the Governor Raymond Baldwin

Chorus by the Gesang and Declamation Soicety

Dr. George S. Brookes, chairman of the War Memorial Committee, presented the keys of the tower

Acceptance Speeches by Selectman George C. Scheets representing the Town and Claude Mills, Mayor, representing the City

Remarks by Vincent Sullivan, the local WPA administrator

Walter B. Chambers of New York, architect.

Bernard J. Ackerman introduced speakers.

Rev. J. Arthur Edwards, benediction

The War Memorial Tower is 72 feet high, has a promenade 220 feet long and its foundation rests on solid rock. Work on the tower was started two years before completing. Native stone was used in its construction. There is an observation platform near the top of the tower.

Bronze tablets bearing the names and also suitable inscriptions of three branches of the service, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps appear on the walls of the arcade.

In 1925 the city appropriated $1,000 for a celebration and some form of a memorial. A part of that amount was set aside for the purpose of erecting a permanent form of tribute to all our war veterans. The Town of Vernon and the City of Rockville have augmented that fund from time to time. The idea of a Tower on Fox Hill grew with the years, the W.P.A. offered to furnish the necessary labor and part of the material and with the aid of a few generous individual gifts, reached the goal.

It is a halo gracefully crowning the head of the city.

## THE WAR IN KOREA

The Republic of Korea was invaded at 4 A.M. Sunday, June 25, 1950, by the armed forces of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (Communist). The United Nations Security Council, in emergency meeting June 25, declared the invasion a breach of the peace, called for a cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of North Korean troops to the 18th parallel, and asked all UN members to assist in carrying out this resolution. For, 9; against, 0. The Soviet Union was absent. Yugoslavia abstained.

President Truman ordered General of the Army Douglas MacArthur to aid the South Koreans, and, citing the threat of a Communist occupation of Formosa, ordered the 7th Fleet to protect that island and prevent Chinese Nationalist forces from attacking the mainland. The President, asked by the U. N. to name a commander to all U. N. forces, chose General MacArthur, July 8, 1950.

While the Korean conflict is "no war" in the constitutional or legal sense, in that the United States Congress never declared war against North Korea, it was generally referred to as war. President Eisenhower referred to it as "war." It has also been referred to as "a continuation of World War II."

## INDUCTED INTO THE ARMED FORCES SINCE KOREA

John J. Boucher
Gordon F. Wells
Raymond E. Helm
Donald W. Ellis
Warren A. Robbins
Robert I. Gitlin
Joseph Piader, Jr.
Louis A. DeCarli
Allen E. Burke
Kenneth W. Stone
Wesley G. Stager
Lester J. Baum
Albert A. Turgeon
William J. Smith
Omer H. Schook
Leonard A. Raczkowski
Robert A. Boucher
Patrick L. Brennan
Charles M. Zane
Carleton E. Newberry
James C. Burke
Norman W. Narkon
Walter J. Nowak
John O. Casey
James J. Regan
Edward A. Synal
Stuart N. Coleman
Walter G. Surdel
Albert E. Morganson
Leonard E. Sojka
Warren W. Webster
Everett C. Dickinson
James A. Doherty
Monroe Moses
George J. Pitkat
Theodore C. Wagner
James E. Campbell
Henry Knybel
Allen M. Kabrick
John F. Drost
Harry A. Wells
Emil Lehman
Francis Szynal
Richard F. Lanz
Robert G. Reinhold
Ralph G. Greene
Raymond H. Hickton
James O. Lambert
Elmer J. Weirs
Edward A. Duell
Henry J. Fortuna
Allen R. Schindler
Robert A. Andre
Stanley C. Lukasiewski
William R. Gebhardt
Charles W. Hlasny
George L. Kibbe
John E. Luetjen
Earl L. Edwards
Wyman H. Griggs, Jr.
Allen L. Beaverstock
Clifford O. Ward, Jr.
Irving W. Dunn, Jr.
Robert W. Pasternack
David S. Kulo
Floyd Mayo
Charles E. Clark
Craig K. Zane
Frederick Bilow

Philip W. Wilder
George Shelsky
Bernard J. Ertel, Jr.
Roy A. Gebhardt
Philip Blinn
Wilfred J. Boure
John A. Stiebitz, Jr.
Roman C. Dzicek
William J. Landry
Edward W. Jesanis
Elmer F. Hartenstein, Jr.
Walter P. Vogel, Jr.
William L. McCollum
Raymond A. Terpilowski
Raymond Berriault
Robert B. Rothe
Earl T. Ronan
Robert G. Brennan
Edward F. Newmarker, 2
Raymond J. Zira
Norman R. Nicotera
Charleton Sperry
Armond F. Hruby
Kenneth A. Weber
John H. Basch, Jr.
Kenneth A. Weirs
Joseph H. Shea
Herbert R. Sojka
Paul L. Lefebyre
Andrew Fortuna, Jr.
Norris T. Wood
Stanley J. Bloniarz
Ronald F. Helm
Edward R. White
Francis W. Miner, Jr.
Richard F. Fetko
William J. Wells
Joseph P. Steppen
William R. Meyer
David W. Mead
Everett W. Gerber
Donald L. Coville
Robert G. Mannel
Stanley E. Wheeler
Richard D. Loalbo
Francis E. Hopowiec
Robert E. Cole
Lawrence M. Koblect
Charles T. Brennan
Richard H. Magdefrau
Donald C. Hickton

# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - 1808-1908

## JUNE 28 TO JULY 4, 1908

At a special town meeting held on Friday evening, November 29, 1907, in the Town Hall the following resolutions authorizing a centennial celebration were passed:

> "Resolved—That the legal voters of the town of Vernon in town meeting assembled, do hereby declare themselves in favor of an "Old Home Week" celebration, to be held during some week in the year 1908, which will appropriately mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the town of Vernon.
>
> Resolved—That a sum not to exceed $2,000 be appropriated from the town treasury to be used for the expenses incurred by the "Old Home Week" celebration during the centennial year of the town, and that the town treasurer be, and he hereby is authorized to honor any and all orders from the treasurer of the general committee for such amounts as the committee shall need from time to time, not to exceed in the aggregate the amount appropriated by the town.
>
> Resolved—That the city of Rockville be asked to do what it can legally do to co-operate with the town through the mayor and Common Council in making the celebration a success."

At an adjourned meeting of the general centennial committee in the Council Chamber on Friday evening, December 27, 1907, at 8 o'clock, organization was perfected by the election of the following officers: President, Charles Phelps; vice-president, Thomas F. Noone; secretary, Joseph C. Hammond, Jr.; assistant secretary, Fred Woodhall; treasurer, Parley B. Leonard. Each one received a unanimous vote.

After months of preparation, of hard work, of encouragement and obstacles, of enthusiasm and misgivings, those who had labored saw the fruition of their efforts, and the town of Vernon entered upon its grand centennial celebration.

Doubtless the memories still freshest with those who can look back upon the events of that week in June, 1908, are the recollec-

tions of the decorations which transformed our streets and open spaces into a stage-setting of more than theatrical splendor. Private houses, public buildings, business places, all contributed a lavish share to the total effect of beauty and carnival-like gaiety. Never before had Rockville's natural scenic advantages been so utilized and enhanced by the tasteful touch of Art. The entire city was a veritable bower of beauty by day and a fairy land by night.

If the daylight effects were inspiring, those of evening and night were thrilling. Myriads of many-colored lights, outlining buildings, festooning streets and parks, made up a veritable "blaze of glory." Especially worthy of mention were the brilliant effects seen about Central Park. Here were erected Ionian columns, their white gracefulness crowned with gilt; and festooned from pillar to pillar, shone thousands of electric bulbs. A pretty effect was obtained about the fountain in Park Place by twining the four lamp-posts with laurel.

Memorial Hall, as was fitting, was made a chief feature in the scheme of decoration, over the main entrance shining the word "Centennial," flanked on each side by the figures "1808" and "1908," respectively, the seal of the state being also outlined in bulbs of red, white, and blue.

First and foremost in the sentiments expressed by the decorations was that of "Welcome." This heart-stirring word was of frequent appearance by day and night, and sounded the keynote of the whole week's festivities.

Many were they who responded to the home-call, and found that "welcome" was indeed the common salutation of all home comers. In fact, to this day, we think and speak of that time as "Old Home Week."

On the Sunday of June 28th, special services in all of the churches marked the preliminary approach of the real celebration. Pastors of all denominations united in presenting to their people some thoughts of special appropriateness to the occasion. Music, too, was a large factor in putting the minds of the people in tune with all the harmony and delight manifested within and without Without in any way slighting the value and enjoyment of other musical performances, it seems worthy of special remembrance that the centennial service of the Union Church was the occasion of presenting Haydn's magnificent oratorio, "The Creation." It was a fine contribution to the progress of Vernon in a musical sense.

Perhaps the honor of inaugurating the celebration proper remains with the Gesang and Declamation Club. Just before midnight of Saturday night, this association assembled in Central Park and sang "Forward the Light," and "Village Dear."

## OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF "OLD HOME WEEK"

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1908

Morning—Special services in all the churches, sermons by former pastors and singing of old-time hymns.

Afternoon—Rendition of famous oratorio, "The Creation," in Union Church.

Evening—Second rendition of "The Creation" given with solo parts by distinguished New York Artists, Orchestra, and Chorus of one hundred and twenty-five voices. Historical address at St. John's Church by Rev. Dr. Samuel Hart, Dean of Berkeley Divinity School and President of Connecticut Historical Society. Solemn High Vespers at St. Bernard's Church, with sermon by Rev. Edward Flannery of Hazardville.

### MONDAY, JUNE 29

Afternoon—Opening exercises at Vernon Center (mother settlement of the town), in historic Congregational Church, built in 1826, with following program: 1, Music; 2, Invocation; 3, Address of welcome by Parley B. Leonard, Esq., first selectman of the Town of Vernon; 4, Reading of Act of the General Assembly creating the Town of Vernon, by Francis B. Skinner, Esq., town clerk; 5, Music; 6, Historical Essay by C. Denison Talcott, Esq.; 7, Music; 8, Reminiscences, by Captain Charles W. Burpee of Hartford; 9, Centennial poem by Prof. Thomas D. Goodell of New Haven; 10, Music; 11, Commemorative address by Hon. Charles Phelps, President of Vernon Centennial Committee; 12, Benediction. Following the exercises in the church there was a Band Concert and social gathering on green in front of the church.

Evening—Grand Colonial Ball in Town Hall, under auspices of Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R. Grand Ball at Turn Hall. Opening of Electrical Display and Illuminations; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway, on East Main Street.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Afternoon—Automobile Hill-Climb Contest, Vernon Avenue, at two o'clock, Athletic sports, including foot races, sack races, climb-

ing greased pole, etc. Ball game on Union Street grounds, Rockville vs. Middletown, champions of Middlesex County League. Balloon Ascension; Band Concert, Vaudeville, and Midway.

Evening—Meeting of Alumni of Rockville High School, with grand reunion. Reception and banquet tendered by Fayette Lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M., to W. M. Edward Fuller, Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut. Ball in Town Hall. Electrical display and Illuminations; Band Concert, Vaudeville, and Midway.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Afternoon—Fifers' and Drummers' convention and contest. Ball game on Union Street grounds, Rockville vs. Bristol; Balloon Ascension; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

Evening—Grand pyrotechnical display, furnished by Clarence D. Holt, former Rockville resident. Band Concert; Midway, and Vaudeville; Electrical Display and Illuminations.

## THURSDAY, JULY 2

Morning—Baseball game on Union Street grounds between Rockville and Springfield State League team, (game to be preceded by parade of the players of the two teams in autos, headed by band).

Afternoon—Baseball on Union Street grounds, Rockville vs. Springfield State League team. Balloon Ascension; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

Evening—Rockville Baseball Association's reception to players, entertainment, and ball, in Town Hall. Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway; Electrical Display and Illuminations.

## FRIDAY, JULY 3

Afternoon—Grand military, civic and industrial parade, ending with Centennial Drill under the direction of Moritz Kemnitzer. Band Concert; Balloon Ascension; Vaudeville, and Midway. German Entertainment at Turn Hall.

Evening—Grand military ball at Town Hall. German entertainment at Turn Hall. Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway; Electrical Display and Illuminations.

## SATURDAY, JULY 4

Morning—Parade of Antiques and Horribles. Band Concert.

Afternoon—Firemen's Muster. Baseball, Rockville vs. Stafford. Balloon Ascension; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

Evening—Firemen's ball at Town Hall. Band Concert; Electrical Display and Illuminations; Private Display of Fireworks; Vaudeville, and Midway. Exhibit of historical relics and curios each day. Industrial exhibit each day.

One of the most attractive features each day was the appearance of Miss Mabel McKinley, niece of President McKinley, who at that time was a celebrated concert vocal soloist of New York.

# THE TERCENTENARY OF CONNECTICUT

## TOWN AND CITY CELEBRATION

The celebration on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 12, 13, 14, 1935, was highly successful. Although the sky was clouded, there was no rain. The streets were beautifully decorated, and business houses and homes displayed flags and bunting. Hundreds of colored electric lights illumined the sky. People, 10,000 of them, enjoyed the entire program. The ball on Thursday night was delightful; the Historic Exhibit and the Flower Show were of high order and added much to the celebration; the Pageants by the school children presented in the afternoon and evening were well done; and Saturday's program, consisting of sports in the morning, the mammoth parade in the afternoon, and the dance at night marked a wonderful celebration.

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|---|
| General Chairman | Mayor George Scheets |
| Vice-chairman | First Selectman Francis J. Prichard |
| Secretary | Lewis Chapman |
| Treasurer | Maurice Spurling |

The General Committee also consists of a representative from each church, lodge, fraternity, club, and other organizations in both Rockville and Vernon, as well as interested citizens.

### COLONIAL AND MILITARY BALL
Thursday Evening, September 12
TOWN HALL, MEMORIAL BUILDING

Entertainment from 8 to 9 P.M.
Dancing 9 P.M. Until Midnight Music by Kabrick's Orchestra

### PROGRAM FOR COLONIAL AND MILITARY BALL

| | |
|---|---|
| Selection | Orchestra |
| Solo | Caroline Milanese West |
| Selections | Schubert Trio |
| Gavotte Louis XIII | by Sinding |
| Believe Me if All Those Endearing Charms | by Moore |
| Pizzicato Gavotte | by Pache |
| Raymond Kunicki, Violin; Henry Butler, Cello; Mariette N. Fitch, Piano | |
| Violin Solo—"Hejre Kati" by Hubay | Raymond Kunicki |

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

### TERCENTENARY PAGEANT
Episodes from Colonial Connecticut
Sykes Auditorium 3 P.M.

Presented by pupils of Public Schools, including members of the 1935 graduating classes of the East and Maple Street Schools

### PROGRAM

Prologue
Historic Characters:
Noah Webster — Roger Sherman
Harriet Beecher Stowe — Israel Putnam
Founding of Hartford—1636
Founding of New Haven—1638
Granting of Connecticut Charter by King Charles II in 1662
Andros and the Charter—1687
Interlude—The Yankee Peddler
Deborah Campion, dispatch bearer—1775
Wethersfield Conference
Epilogue

For those unable to enter the Sykes Auditorium, because of the large attendance, there was an overflow performance at the Old High School Assembly room, presented by children from the Maple Street and East Schools.

## PUBLIC EXERCISES

### SYKES AUDITORIUM
Friday Evening, September 13
at 8 P.M.
Rev. George T. Sinnott, Pastor St. Bernard's Catholic Church
Presiding

### PROGRAM

Instrumental Selection—Marche Militaire — Schubert
Schubert Trio
Vocal Selections—
a. Bridal Chorus from "The Rose Maiden" — Cowen
b. Old Folks at Home — Foster-Harris
The Treblers
Introductory Remarks — Rev. George T. Sinnott
Invocation — Rev. H. B. Olmstead
Pastor St. John's Episcopal Church
Instrumental Selection—Caratina — Raff
Schubert Trio

Greetings
City of Rockville — Mayor George Scheets
Town of Vernon — First Selectman Francis J. Prichard
Vocal Selections—
a. O—He Carita — De Koven
b. By the Bend of the River — Edwards-Hemstreet
The Treblers
Address — C. Denison Talcott, former State Senator
Vocal Selection—Cast Thy Burden — Hemblen
The Treblers
Address—"Why Celebrate the Tercentenary"
Dr. Robert Demming, State Board of Education
Instrumental Selection—Hungarian Dance No. 6 — Brahms
Schubert Trio
Benediction — Rev. Milton Liebe
Pastor Killingworth Congregational Church

The Ladies' Chorus, known as "The Treblers" is under the direction of Miss Edith F. Ransom, Instructor of voice and piano.

## SPORTS PROGRAM

### SATURDAY MORNING

9:00 A.M. Tennis. South Manchester vs. Rockville.
9:30 A.M. Baseball. South Manchester vs. Rockville.
10:00 A.M. Start of Cross Country Race. Finish in front of Board Walk.
10:00 A.M. Track Events. Main Street, Opposite Board Walk.

### PARADE SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The parade started at 2 p.m. with Eight or More Divisions, Bands, Floats, Marchers and organizations. Most colorful parade in history of city.

### HISTORICAL EXHIBIT AT ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

There was a collection of old china, glassware, pewter, books, samplers and similar objects of unusual interest and historical value at the library. The library was opened from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. on each of the three days of the celebration.

### FALL FLOWER SHOW

Under Auspices of Rockville Garden Club
Friday and Saturday, September 13, 14
Fitch Block, Union Street

Extensive exhibits of fall flowers by members of the Garden Club, with close to 100 members exhibiting.

# SECTION VII

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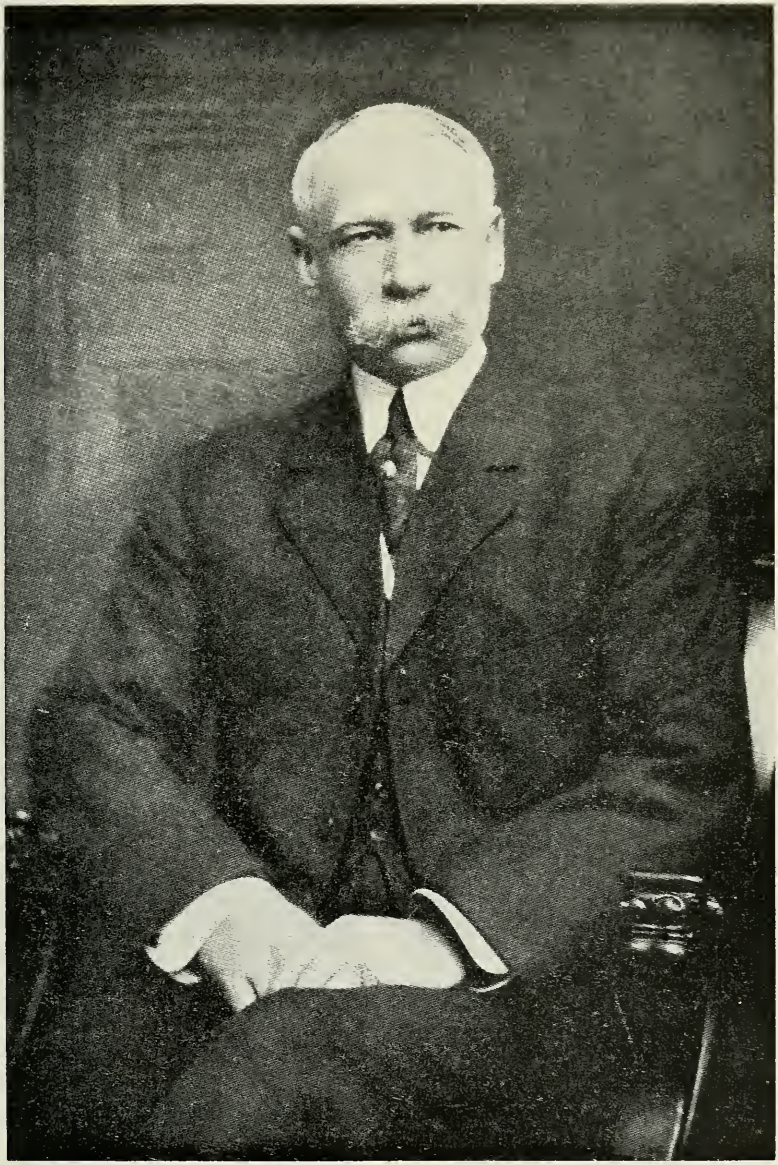
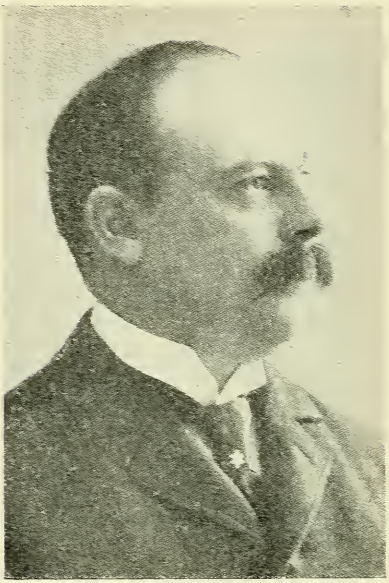
| Hammond Silver Drum Corps | 430 |
| First Athletic Field on Orchard Street | 435 |

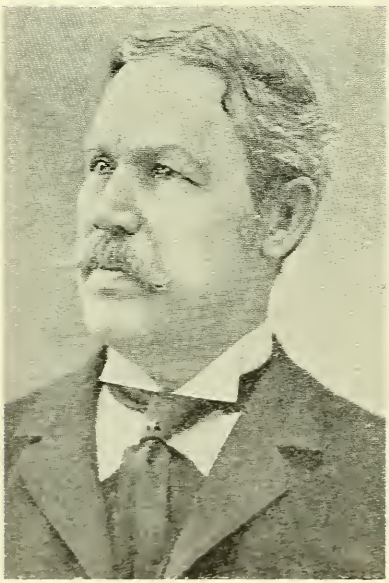


CHARLES PHELPS

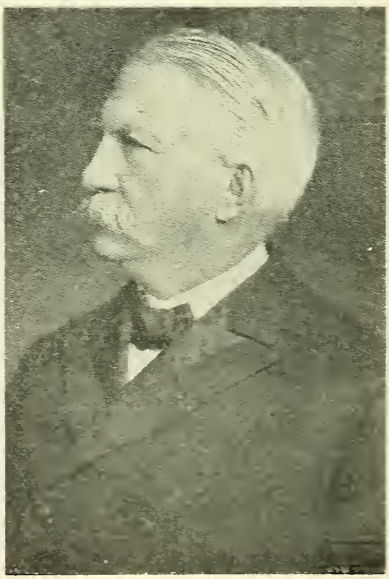
GEORGE MAXWELL



FRANCIS T. MAXWELL



GEORGE SYKES



E. STEVENS HENRY

## THESE HAVE BROUGHT US RENOWN

The important contribution of the small town of Vernon to the big outside world is really astonishing. Some of those who have brought us renown by their achievements were born here in humble homes; others passing through the Loom City received instruction in our schools, encouraging counsel from men of genius, and the friendly interest of a very limited population.

This is a partial list:

Martin Kellogg
President of the University of California

George Edwin MacLean
President of the University of Nebraska
President of the University of Iowa

Thomas Dwight Goodell
Professor of Greek at Yale University

Ebenezer Kellogg
Professor and Librarian at Williams College

James J. Gilfillan
Treasurer of the United States

Edward James Gavegan
Justice of Supreme Court of New York

Dwight Loomis
Connecticut Jurist and Congressman

Augustine Lonergan
United States Senator

Lucien Francis Burpee
Colonel and Judge Advocate

Harold Francis Loomis
Brigadier General, United States Army

Charles Winslow Burpee
Connecticut Historian

Charles Phelps
First Attorney General of Connecticut

Cora Elizabeth Lutz
Authority on Medieval Literature

William Churchill Hammond
Organist and Choir Master

Everett J. Lake
Governor of the State

Isaac Merritt Agard
College President

Walter Raymond Agard
Professor of Classics, University of Wisconsin

Lyman Twining Tingier
Lieutenant Governor

Dwight Marcy
Clerk of Senate and Speaker of the House

George Talcott
Bank President and Trial Justice

Frederick Swindells
Manufacturer and Philanthropist

Benezet Hough Bill
State's Attorney

Lebbeus Bissell
Business Genius

E. Stevens Henry
State Treasurer and Congressman

The Maxwells
Industrialists

Four Brothers Sykes
Industrialists

Antoni N. Sadlak
Congressman-at-Large

John W. Middleton
Brigadier General, United States Army

Carl McKinley
Organist and Composer

## MARTIN KELLOGG

Martin Kellogg was born in Vernon, Connecticut, March 5, 1828. His father, Allyn Kellogg, was for fifty years deacon of Vernon Congregational Church, a farmer, and Representative in the Connecticut Legislature.

Martin was graduated from Yale University in 1850 as the most distinguished man in his class and later studied theology at Andover and Union Seminaries. He went to California in 1855 as a representative of the American Home Missionary Society of New York City. He was a minister for a period at Shasta City, outfitting point for the gold miners of the Coast Range Mountains. Later, he became pastor of the Congregational Church at Grass Valley in the Mother Lode country.

The University of California was chartered on March 23, 1868. Under the terms of the Charter it took over the College of California. On November 10, 1868, The Regents of the new University of California named Professor Kellogg to the chair of Ancient Languages. He thus became the second professor named on the faculty of the University of California. In the spring of 1885, the faculty of the University elected Professor Kellogg as chairman of the faculty and he served as President without title until January, 1886. On October 1, 1890, the Academic Senate of the University elected Professor Kellogg as President pro tempore. In the same month, The Regents of the University, recognizing the significance of this choice by the faculty, requested Professor Kellogg to carry on again the duties of the presidency and to occupy a seat on The Board of Regents. On January 24, 1893, the Regents further indicated their concurrence with the opinion of the faculty by appointing him as President of the University.

On September 14, 1898, President Kellogg submitted his resignation to the Board of Regents to take effect on March 23, 1899. In accepting this resignation, The Regents resolved "there has been no greater force toward higher ideals of character and scholarship in all the history of this State than President Kellogg." He was promptly named Emeritus Professor of Latin. At commencement in 1899, the faculty of the University paid the following tribute to the retiring President Kellogg: "You, sir, are one of the very few of us still remaining who have been associated with the University and assisted in its counsel from its beginning. In addition to this, for nine years as its President, you have determined its policy and guided its course. . . . It is impossible not to attribute the phenom-

enal growth of the University in all directions to a rare combination and even balance of many qualities, intellectual and moral, conducive to wise administration. Among these qualities especially affecting our relations to you and endearing you to us, but also necessary to the cooperative activity of the University as a whole, we cannot fail to recognize a clearness of insight, a trueness of judgment untainted by vanity or self-seeking, a modesty which is not ashamed to seek counsel and knows well how to use it whether in confirming or modifying personal judgment. It is due to this chiefly that the faculty, the academic council, the students, the whole University, have become unified into a living, growing, healthy organism, all parts acting together harmoniously for the good of the whole."

Dr. David Starr Jordan, while President of Stanford University said, "If I could do it, I would fill every place in my faculty with President Kellogg multiplied over as many times as I have places." He said further, "The spirit and character of a man like President Kellogg have to be born in him and are the rarest and most valuable possessions a university can have. Any university can find all the specialists it needs; but it may be thankful if by raking the country over, it can get even a few men of that inborn spirit; and when it has them all these things shall be added unto it."

As President and Professor, Mr. Kellogg served 43 years on the staff of the College of California and the University of California. He died on August 26, 1903.

## GEORGE EDWIN MACLEAN

George Edwin MacLean was born in Rockville on August 31, 1850, the son of Edwin W. and Julia Ladd MacLean. His Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College in 1871 was the first of many scholastic attainments. Other degrees earned here and abroad make an imposing list: A.M., 1874 and B.D., Yale, 1874; Ph.D., Univ. of Leipzig, 1883; Univ. of Berlin, Univ. of Oxford, 1882; LL.D., Williams, 1895; Syracuse University, 1909.

He married Clara S. Taylor of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, May 20, 1874. Ordained into the ministry in that same year in New Lebanon, New York, by the Congregational Council and the Presbyterian Presbytery, Mr. MacLean became pastor of the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Troy, New York, where he remained until 1881.

After studying for two years in Europe, he answered the call of scholarship, and became professor of English language and literature at the University of Minnesota, a position he held for twelve years until called to be the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska in 1895. Evangelist E. Payson Hammond, of Vernon, Connecticut, visited the University during the Chancellorship of George E. MacLean, and addressed the student body. After four years, MacLean became the President of the State University of Iowa and occupied that important chair for twelve years.

It was during his work at these American Universities that he began his career of writing. His published books show his interests: "A Chart of English Literature," 1892; "Old and Middle English Reader," 1893; "A Decade of Development in American State Universities," 1898; "The Next Stage in the Educational Development of Nebraska," 1898.

Dr. MacLean died on May 5, 1938, in his eighty-eighth year.

George Edwin MacLean, Educator, born in Rockville, Connecticut, August 31, 1850.

Yale 1874, Ph.D. Professor English Language and Literature at University of Minnesota, 1883-1895

President of University of Nebraska, 1895-1899; President State University of Iowa, 1899-1911

United States specialist in Higher Education, 1913

Visiting Universities and Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland, 1914-1916, director for Universities and Colleges in the United Kingdom

Decorated Officer de l'Instruction Publique (France)

Author—

A Chart of English Literature with References, 1892

Old and Middle English Reader with Introduction, Notes and Glossary, 1893

A Decade of Development in American State Universities, 1898

Present Standards of Higher Education in U. S., 1913

Studies in Higher Education in England and Scotland, with suggestions for Universities and Colleges in United States, 1916

Similar Studies in Ireland and Wales, 1917

Opportunities for Graduate Study in Great Britain, 1921

The New International Era, 1923

History of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, 1928

Addresses, Articles, Reviews

George Edwin MacLean died May 5, 1938.

## THOMAS DWIGHT GOODELL

Thomas Dwight Goodell was born in Ellington, Connecticut, November 8, 1854, the son of Francis and Sophia Louise (Burpee) Goodell. He was fitted for college at the Rockville (Conn.) High School, and graduated as a member of the first class in 1873. He was awarded the Hurlbut Scholarship in his Freshman year at Yale, received a third prize in English composition as a Sophomore, in his Junior year was given a first prize in the Winthrop competition and a second prize at the Junior Exhibition, and divided the Scott Prize, and in Senior year received a College Premium in English composition. His appointments were a philosophical oration in Junior year and a high oration at Commencement. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated in 1877.

His marriage took place in Rockville, May 9, 1878, to Julia Harriet, daughter of William Wiltshire and Julia Ann (Stebbins) Andross. They had no children.

He had taught school in North Coventry and in Rockville before entering Yale, and upon graduation accepted a position as classical teacher in the grammar school section of the Hartford Public High School, where he remained for eleven years, carrying on at the same time extra work in the Yale Graduate School, for which he received the degree of Ph.D. in 1884. In 1886 he went abroad for fourteen months, matriculating at the University of Berlin and traveling in Greece and Italy. He was appointed assistant professor of Greek at Yale in 1888. In 1893 he was promoted to a full professorship. He became senior professor of Greek in 1909, and from 1912 was Lampson professor of the Greek language and literature.

He served as professor of the Greek language and literature at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens during 1894-95, having been given a year's leave of absence by the University.

He wrote the Greek Festival Hymn for the Yale Bicentennial Celebration, the music for which was composed by the late Horatio Parker, dean of the School of Music. Professor Goodell published many books, among them being "The Greek in English;" "First Lessons in Greek, with Special Reference to the Etymology of English Words of Greek Origin," 1886 (revised and enlarged, 1889); "Greek Lessons," 1892; "Chapters on Greek Metric," Yale Bicentennial Publications, 1901; "A School Grammar of Attic Greek," 1902; "Greek Lessons for Beginners" (with Frederick S. Morrison, '80), 1903; and "Athenian Tragedy: A Study in Popular Art," 1920. A volume of poems, entitled "Commemoration," was published through the Yale University Press in June, 1921. Professor Goodell contributed numerous articles and monographs to magazines and philological journals. He was a Congregationalist, and attended the College Church. He served as vice-president of the American Philological Association from 1909 to 1911, and as its president during 1911-12, and was also a member of the Archaeological Institute of America, the Connecticut Academy of Sciences, the Classical Association (British), and the Advisory Council of the Simplified Spelling Board.

He died at his home in New Haven, July 7, 1920, after a brief illness.

Since his death Mrs. Goodell has given to the Archaeological Museum of Phelps Hall a valuable group of Greek and Roman antiquities collected by Professor Goodell.

## EBENEZER KELLOGG

Ebenezer Kellogg was born in Vernon, Connecticut, on October 25, 1789, and was graduated from Yale College in 1810. For two years he taught at an Academy in New London, Connecticut, where he found his work both interesting and stimulating. However, he never seemed to be satisfied with the accomplishments which he was making. Slowly there came an inward urge to enter the ministry, and he could not resist the call. He entered the Andover Theological Seminary in the fall of 1812, where he remained for three years studying and struggling with himself over his future. Kellogg was extremely pious, but during the three years at Andover the call to the ministry became less and less a divine urge, and by 1815 he had decided that perhaps it was not the Lord's will after all for him to preach the gospel.

His love for teaching was still alive, and when he was offered a professorship of languages at Williams College in the fall of 1815, he accepted immediately. Though he had turned his back on the ministry, he carried as much religious zeal and enthusiasm with him to Williams College as he could have carried into the pulpit. He was librarian from 1815 to 1845, and Williams College was ever grateful for his metriculous work.

When the college was in circumstances of embarrassment he never hesitated to make sacrifices, to live on a small salary without complaint, or to do an amount of miscellaneous labor which few men would have been willing to undertake. He originated the idea of the college garden, and purchased the ground and gave it to the college. It is now a stretch of lawn. Other buildings are around its borders, but none on the plot itself.

He roomed for some time in college, occupying the northeast corner room in the Old West College, second story. It was his practice to call at all the rooms in that building as often as once a day, to see that the students were in their rooms and attending to their studies. He was a man of great particularity.

In 1816, Kellogg's health declined, and for many months he was quite ill. He had consumption and went to South Carolina. He left Charleston on December 16, 1817 for Savannah. He resumed his teaching duties at Williams College in the fall of 1818, where he taught until his death in October, 1846, at the age of 57. His trip to South Carolina and Georgia in 1817-18 perhaps lengthened his life by several years.

Mark Hopkins, then President of Williams College, delivered the funeral sermon giving a glowing tribute to the faithfulness of Professor Kellogg.

## JAMES J. GILFILLAN

In the year 1856 a young man of Scotch descent, newly graduated from Williams College, came to Rockville to read law in the office of Congressman Dwight Loomis, located on Park Street on the site of the present Sykes School. Judge Loomis was then Representative from the First Congressional District, comprising, at that time, Hartford and Tolland Counties. James J. Gilfillan, born in Belchertown, Massachusetts, in 1836, soon proved himself an ambitious young man. In spite of his youth, he founded and edited a political weekly paper, which he named the Tolland County Re-

publican, the first newspaper printed in Rockville. The office of this paper was located on Park Street, opposite the Sykes School. During his six years in Rockville, he so impressed Judge Loomis with his efficient honesty that the Rockville Congressman helped him to obtain an appointment as a temporary clerk in the office of the Treasurer of the United States. Assisted by two Rockville people, Judge Loomis and Miss Josephine Thomas, whom he married, Gilfillan was well started on his way to be Treasurer of the United States.

An obituary notice at the time of Mr. Gilfillan's death recalls a day when travel across the continent was an arduous and dangerous undertaking:

> "Among his first duties as clerk he was to take $4,000,000. in greenbacks to the assistant treasurer at San Francisco and bring back to Washington $3,000,000. in gold coin. It was the period of train robbing and the young clerk had to go with an escort of army officers west of Omaha. The trip was made in a parlor car in which the seats were removed and beds substituted."

Inasmuch as the first transcontinental railroad was not completed until the year 1869, it is likely that part of the trip was by stage coach or some similarly dangerous means of travel.

For four years, James Gilfillan served as a temporary clerk, and was then promoted to clerk. Further promotions came regularly every two years for this industrious young man, until in 1875 he was Cashier with a salary of $3,800.

James Abram Garfield was influential in this rapid and steady promotion of Mr. Gilfillan. The Tolland County Journal is the source for an interesting story about Garfield, who later became President of the United States. Under the date of April 15, 1881, the Journal records:

> "When President Garfield was a representative in Congress years back, (he had just resigned as major-general in order to enter Congress) he called in on United States Treasurer Spinner one day and said: "General Spinner, do you know that in one of the lower rooms of this building there is at work an old classmate of mine? He was wonderfully apt at Williams College. He could beat me at my lessons and is quick and honest."

"What is his name?"

"James Gilfillan."

Whereupon Treasurer Spinner sent for him, made arrangements to promote him and advanced him rapidly.

In 1877, James J. Gilfillan became Treasurer of the United States, succeeding A. U. Wyman to that responsible position. Interesting details of how Mr. Gilfillan obtained his promotion to Treasurer are related in the Washington Evening Star of May 24, 1877.

> "Some days ago Treasurer Wyman went to the room of Secretary Sherman and formally tendered his resignation as Treasurer of the United States. Secretary Sherman, much surprised, declined to accept it, stating that his services as treasurer were appreciated, and that he was too good a public officer to leave the service of the government. Within a day or two Mr. Wyman again pressed upon Secretary Sherman his resignation and again its acceptance was declined. Yesterday Mr. Wyman stated to Secretary Sherman that in the present condition of his health he could not continue to hold the office of treasurer, as its manifold responsibilities were too trying for one not in possession of full physical vigor. He told Mr. Sherman that in view of the duties being less responsible, he would accept the place of assistant treasurer, and recommended that James Gilfillan, the incumbent of the latter position, be promoted to the treasurership.

The commission of James J. Gilfillan as Treasurer of the United States was duly signed by the President and on the 2nd of July, Mr. Gilfillan changed offices with Mr. Wyman.

James Gilfillan was Treasurer until the spring of 1883, submitting his resignation to the President on March 5 to take effect on the first of April. He had accepted the position of treasurer and manager of the Mutual Trust Company of New York. The Washington Evening Star said of Mr. Gilfillan that he "has been so efficient in the discharge of his responsible duties, and so courteous and obliging to all who have approached him, that he will leave his official position with nothing but praise from everybody." The Banker's Magazine and Statistical Register (New York) commented in glowing terms:

"Treasurer Gilfillan's Retirement.—In the retirement of James Gilfillan, Treasurer of the United States, the Government loses a man it cannot replace. He made so little show that few knew of his existence. He despised notoriety and did his work for eight or ten hours a day without bragging about it to the world. General Spinner was called the watch dog of the Treasury, and yet he lost many thousands of dollars, from the payment of which Congress released him. Mr. Gilfillan never lost a dollar, but, by his integrity against cliques, he saved thousands to the Treasury, and nobody was high enough to influence him against what he thought to be his duty."—credited to *"Wash. Letter to Phila. Press."*

The May (1883) issue of the same Banker's Magazine contains this interesting sidelight:

"United States Treasury.—The committee appointed to examine and count the money and securities of the United States Treasury completed its work on the 19th of April. This count, which is the only absolute verification of the condition of the Treasury made since 1872, was required by the retirement of Treasurer Gilfillan, who had not yet been released from his official bond. A discrepancy of three cents only was discovered between the Treasurer's accounts and the cash and securities on hand, and this sum is in excess of the amount stated in the books, and belongs to the Government. If the balance had been on the other side Mr. Gilfillan would have been required to make good the deficit. . . . While the officers of the Treasury were morally certain that everything was right, they feared that during the past ten years, when hundreds of millions of dollars were handled, some error might have occurred."

He remained in New York, presumably with the Mutual Trust Company, filling positions variously as treasurer and president, until 1889. He then returned to Connecticut, and lived in Colchester until his death in 1929, at the advanced age of 93—per ardua ad astra.

## EDWARD JAMES GAVEGAN

Mr. Edward James Gavegan's father was Matthew Gavegan of

New Haven, Connecticut, a journalist and veteran of the Civil War. His mother was Helen J. (Barry) Gavegan.

He was born April 5, 1863, in Windsor, Connecticut, and graduated from the Rockville High School. At the exercises of the Class of 1880, held in the First Congregational Church, the audience heard his fine declamation on "Emmet's Speech at His Trial." At Yale, he was given the Second colloquy appointment Junior and Senior years. He was a member of the Freshman Glee Club; University Glee Club two years; College Choir; Porter Literary Society and Delta Kappa Epsilon. He attended Yale School of Law 1889-91 (LL.B. 1891; shared Munson Prize Senior year; member University Glee Club and Kent Club).

Admitted to New York bar in 1892, he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York State for the First Judicial District in 1910 and continued until retirement in 1933 and was an official referee, 1934-43. He represented several labor unions of the building trade from 1906 to 1909. He was appointed a member of President Theodore Roosevelt's White House Labor Conference, a director of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology; he was also on the Advisory Board of St. Vincent's Hospital; a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York State and County Bar Associations, New York County Lawyers Association, American and International Bar Associations, Society of Medical Jurisprudence, Academy of Political Science (New York), American Federation of Musicians, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Roman Catholic Church.

He was married October 14, 1897, in New York City to Anna Ida Walters O'Mara. They had no children. He died February 6, 1943, in New York City and was buried in Calvary Cemetery, New York City.

## DWIGHT LOOMIS

Dwight Loomis, born in Columbia, Connecticut, July 27, 1821, attended the common schools and academies in Monson and Amherst, Massachusetts. He taught school and was graduated from the law department of Yale University in 1847. He was admitted to the Bar the same year and commenced practice at Rockville. He was elected a member of the State House of Representatives in 1851, and a member of the State Senate 1857-1859. He was elected as a Republican to the Thirty-Sixth and Thirty-Seventh Congress

(March 4, 1859-March 3, 1863). Appointed as a judge of the Superior Court of the State 1864-1875, he became Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State 1875-1891. He moved to Hartford in 1892, and became a State referee from 1892 until his death in a train accident near Waterbury, Connecticut, September 17, 1903. He was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery, Rockville, Connecticut, respected always as a Christian statesman and impartial judge.

His portrait hangs in the State's Attorney's room of the State Library.

## AUGUSTINE LONERGAN

Augustine Lonergan, born in Thompson, Windham County, Connecticut, in 1874, attended the public school at Maple Street in Rockville and also attended school in Bridgeport. He worked for some time in the Hockanum Mill. He was graduated from the law department of Yale University in 1902; was admitted to the Bar in 1901, and commenced practice in Hartford, Connecticut. He was a member of the American and State Bar Associations. He served as Representative in Congress from 1913-1915, 1917-1921 and 1931-1933.

He was elected to the United States Senate in 1932 and served from March 4, 1933, to January 3, 1939; engaged in the practice of law in Washington, D.C., until his death there on October 18, 1947; was interred in Mount St. Benedict's Cemetery, Hartford, Connecticut.

It was Senator Lonergan who unofficially named one of Hartford's streets, "Rockville Street," after his expressed desire. The official name was given to the street on October 26, 1925. It runs from Vine Street to Enfield Street, Hartford.

## LUCIEN FRANCIS BURPEE

Lucien Burpee was born in Rockville, October 12, 1855. His father was Thomas Francis Burpee, a manufacturer, who was a colonel of the 21st Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers during the Civil War and was mortally wounded at Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 9, 1864, and died two days later.

After graduating from Rockville High School, he entered Yale College, where he received two prizes in English Composition in

his Sophomore year, high oration appointments Junior and Senior years, a second prize at the Junior Exhibition, and a Townsend Premium for English Composition in his Senior year; spoke at Commencement; he was an editor of the Yale Literary Magazine and of the Banner senior year.

Lucien Burpee studied at Yale School of Law (1879-1880) and at Hamilton College School of Law, receiving the degree of LL.B. at the latter institution. He was admitted to the New York Bar in July, 1880; held the Larned and Clark fellowships at Yale 1880-81 (student in American history) at the same time tutoring and studying law. He was admitted to the Connecticut Bar by motion, December, 1880.

He served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Errors, New York, from 1921 until his death.

He enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard 1877; was elected a Second Lieutenant of Company A, second regiment 1881; became Captain 1887; served as Colonel of the 2nd Regiment from 1895 to 1899; appointed Lieutenant Colonel and Judge Advocate of United States Volunteers 1898; served during Spanish-American War on the staffs of General Miles and General Wilson, receiving honorable mention for distinguished service in the Porto Rican campaign; received his discharge January 1, 1899.

He was a member of the New Haven County Bar Association, Loyal Legion, Sons of Veterans, Spanish War Veterans, Naval and Military Order of the Spanish War, Sons of the American Revolution, Military and Naval Order of Foreign Wars of the United States (past commander), Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Rockville Congregational Church.

He was married three times.

He was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery, Rockville. A guard of honor, appointed by the War Department, escorted the body to the grave, where a bugler sounded taps.

## BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD FRANCIS LOOMIS

Born in Rockville, Connecticut, Brigadier General Loomis was graduated from West Point in 1914 and was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1916. He was made a captain in July, 1917, and was promoted to the temporary rank of lieutenant colonel in October, 1918. He reverted to his permanent rank of captain in March, 1920, and was made permanent major in July, 1920. In 1935 he

was made a lieutenant colonel and in June, 1941, he was promoted to colonel. In October, 1941, he was promoted to the temporary grade of brigadier general, United States Army.

Upon graduation from West Point General Loomis was first assigned to Paris as assistant to the military attaché in 1914. He returned to the United States for duty at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in October, 1914. He was in Hawaii from October, 1915, to April, 1918, where he served as aide to the Department Commander at Honolulu and as the Hawaiian Department Intelligence Officer.

After a year at Fort Monroe, Virginia, he returned to West Point where he served as an instructor in French for four years. He then attended the Advanced Course of the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe and was graduated in 1925. He then joined the Seventh Coast Artillery at Fort Hancock, New Jersey for two years.

General Loomis graduated from the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1928. He then returned to Fort Monroe as an instructor for four years. In 1932 he took the course at the Ecole Superieure de Guerre, Paris, France, and was graduated in 1934, when he returned to the United States for duty at Fort Totten, New York, and with the Organized Reserves in New York City until 1938.

In 1939 he graduated from the Army War College, Washington, D. C., and remained in Washington as a member of the War Plans Division of the War Department General Staff. Upon his appointment as brigadier general in October, 1941, he was assigned to command the Portland Subsector of the New England Sector with headquarters at Fort Williams, Maine. In May, 1942, he was transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, to command the Southern Sector of the Eastern Defense Command.

In October, 1943, General Loomis went to Algiers in North Africa where he was appointed Chairman of the Joint Rearmament Committee, North Africa Theater of Operations. In that capacity he was responsible for the coordination of all matters in connection with the equipping and training of the French Armed Forces. After the liberation of Paris this committee was transferred to that city and became the Rearmament Division of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces, Mission to France, of which General Loomis was the Chief.

From October, 1945, until his retirement in November, 1946, General Loomis was Chief of the Fiscal and Budget Section, Headquarters Army Ground Forces, Washington, D. C.

## DECORATIONS

UNITED STATES

Distinquished Service Medal
Legion of Merit
Bronze Star Medal
World War I Victory Medal
American Campaign Medal
American Defense Service Medal with foreign service clasp
World War II Victory Medal
European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

FRANCE

Officer of the Legion of Honor
Groix de Guerre with Palm
Grand Officer Nichau-Iftikar, Tunisia

GREAT BRITAIN

Commander of the British Empire

## CHARLES WINSLOW BURPEE

Charles W. Burpee was born November 13, 1859, in Rockville. His father was Thomas Francis Burpee, a woolen manufacturer in Rockville. After attending Rockville High School, Charles Burpee went to Yale and received first prize in English composition in his Sophomore year and second prize in the second term; first dispute appointment and Exhibition speaker in his Junior year; first colloquy appointment Senior year. He was on the board of the "Yale Courant" his sophomore year; chairman editorial board "Yale Daily News," Senior year; a Class deacon; co-author of "Medes," a two-act play produced by the Yale University Dramatic Association in 1881; acting fleet captain Yale Corinthian Yacht Club Senior year; member Gamma Nu, Psi Upsilon and Skull and Bones.

He became city editor of the "Waterbury (Conn.) American" 1883-91; part owner "Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard" 1891-95; on the staff of the "Hartford Courant" 1895-1904; managing editor 1900-04; editor Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, Hartford, and later Chief of Reinstatement Division, 1904 until retirement in 1935; literary editor "Hartford Times" 1930-35. He was author of "The Military History of Waterbury" in 1891; "Graduate Course of Applied Psychology in Life Insurance" 1913; "First Century of the Phoenix National Bank of Hartford" 1914; a "History of Hartford County" 1928; "A Century in Hartford" (1931) and Burpee's "The Story of Connecticut," 1939 (4 vols.). He contributed to "History of Waterbury" 1896 by Rev. Joseph Anderson, D.D., member of the Yale Corporation; and "History of Connecticut in Monograph Form" by Norris Galpin Osborn 1925. He enlisted as

a private in the First Connecticut Volunteers during the Spanish-American War; was a Captain of the Connecticut National Guard and Colonel of the First Regiment 1917-21; Vice-President Yale Alumni Association of Hartford 1908-09, President 1909-10, and secretary Hartford Yale Loan Fund; member Sons of the American Revolution; Connecticut Historical Society, Friends of Hartford, Congregational Church. He was married November 5, 1885. He died May 13, 1945, in Hartford and was buried in Southbury, Connecticut.

## CHARLES PHELPS

From a humble beginning he scaled the heights. That one sentence describes the career of Charles Phelps, one of Rockville's most prominent citizens, who passed away February 8, 1940, at Daytona Beach, Florida, where he had gone with Mrs. Phelps to spend the winter. He was 87 years of age. Born in a Methodist parsonage in East Hartford on August 10, 1852, to Reverend Benjamin C. and Sarah Parker Phelps, he carried through life the training he received in that humble home, and always had a deep reverence for the things which are sacred. He was a leading lawyer, with 64 years of active practice.

He obtained his early education at Wethersfield, Connecticut, and East Greenwich, Rhode Island. In 1871, he entered Wesleyan University and was graduated in 1875. That same year he entered the law office of Judge Benezet H. Bill in this city and two years later was admitted to the bar. From that point on, his rise was rapid until in 1897 he was elected Secretary of State and in 1899 he became the first Attorney General of the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Phelps possessed a brilliant mind and a marvelous memory. He resembled a mighty cathedral in that one had to be a distance away in order really to appreciate his greatness. Such was his memory, he never forgot a name and would call off dates of various events that had taken place years ago. He was quick to grasp a problem and once his nimble brain began to work, its solution was not long forthcoming. All his friends admired him for his sense of humor and pleasing personality.

Mr. Phelps was also a gifted orator with poise and power. How magnificently his sentences marched! He charmed his friends with his speeches, delivered without a note, of beautiful rhetoric, patriotic sentiment, touching eloquence. These gifts induced Wesleyan University to confer upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

His first office was located in Tolland. He moved to Rockville after one year.

Mr. Phelps was for many years a member of the State Board of Examiners of applicants for admission to the bar. He was a county coroner from the time of the creation of that office in 1883 until his appointment as State's Attorney twenty-one years later. He served as corporation counsel for the City of Rockville from 1890 to 1892 and as prosecuting attorney for the city from 1890 to 1897 and as State Attorney for Tolland County from 1904 to 1915. He was a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives from the Town of Vernon in 1885 and in 1893 was elected to the State Senate from the twenty-third senatorial district. In 1902, he was elected a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. He was also a member of the Commission appointed by the legislature to study the question of the establishment of a public utilities commission to take the place of the then existing railroad commission.

Mr. Phelps was a member of the advisory board of the Rockville Branch of the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company, and was for many years vice-president of the Rockville National Bank, which preceded the trust company. He was also a trustee and for many years president of the George Sykes Manual Training and High School. He was president of the Connecticut Bar Association from 1914 to 1916.

Mr. Phelps was always a staunch supporter of the Republican party, while his religious faith was indicated by his loyal membership in the Union Congregational Church.

Along strictly professional lines, he retained membership in the American Bar Association and the Connecticut Bar Association, having served as president of the Tolland County Bar Association for more than thirty years.

He was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the college fraternity of Psi Upsilon, was also a member of the Hartford Golf Club and of the Authors' Club of London, England. He also held membership in the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

His great-grandfather was a member of the First Constitutional Convention in 1818, representing the town of Somers, Connecticut.

## CORA ELIZABETH LUTZ

Dr. Cora E. Lutz is Head of the Classics Department at Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and is an authority on Medieval Latin. In 1949, she was awarded a Guggenheim scholarship, which enabled her to spend a year in Europe doing basic research on a book which will be published shortly.

She has had three books published, all on Medieval literature and based on the writing of Iohannis Scotti, famous scholar, who in the Middle Ages wrote on the Seven Arts. She not only translated the manuscripts, but also wrote a commentary in English. The fourth book, to be issued shortly, is also on the same noted scholar.

The books are used by scholars in colleges and other institutions of higher learning.

Dr. Lutz was graduated from Rockville High School and the Connecticut College for Women at New London. She received her M.A. and her Ph.D. degrees at Yale University. She was appointed a professor of Latin at Judson College, Marion, Alabama, and was later appointed assistant professor at Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and two years ago was appointed head of the department there.

Miss Lutz still makes her home in Rockville, spending the summers here. She is listed in the recent Who's Who in Eastern United States and she has received many honors in educational and literary circles.

Dr. Lutz is a member of the American Philological Association, the Medieval Academy of America, Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Classical Association, and Phi Beta Kappa.

## WILLIAM CHURCHILL HAMMOND

For 50 years William Churchill Hammond was a leader in musical affairs throughout the Connecticut Valley. He carried on three careers—those of church organist and choirmaster, concert organist, and professor of music in a college.

Born in Rockville November 28, 1860, the son of Joseph Churchill Hammond, Jr., and Katherine Isham Burr, he began playing the organ in the Second Congregational Church here January 4, in his fifteenth year. In 1884, he was organist of the Pearl Street Congregational Church in Hartford, and the next year went

to Holyoke, Massachusetts, and was engaged by the Parish Committee for one year, but continued as organist and choirmaster of the Holyoke Church for 50 years.

From 1890 to 1910, Mr. Hammond made a specialty of organ recitals, and was in constant demand for dedication services of new organs throughout this part of the country.

From 1890 to 1900, he was instructor of organ at Smith College. In 1896, he was one of the founders of the American Guild of Organists.

In September of 1899, he was called to be the head of the Department of Music at Mount Holyoke College, where he was constantly employed for nearly forty years. In 1900 he formed the Choir which has become an important part of the Mount Holyoke College music program and has carried the fame of the college afar. From the beginning Mr. Hammond made a specialty of Christmas Carols, and for ten years the Glee Club of Mount Holyoke gave a concert in Town Hall, New York, and visited Washington, Philadelphia, Hartford, Boston and other cities, gaining for itself a great reputation.

In 1921, when services were resumed in the rebuilt church after a fire, a four manual organ, with 85 stops, built by the E. M. Skinner Company, was installed.

In June, 1924, he gave his 759th recital at the 75th Anniversary of the Holyoke Congregational Church, and in that year the degree of Doctor of Music was conferred on him by Mount Holyoke College.

## EVERETT JOHN LAKE

Everett J. Lake was born in Woodstock, Connecticut, February 8, 1871, and died in Hartford, September 16, 1948. He lived in Rockville on Elm Street for a number of years, and assisted his father in the Thomas E. Lake Lumber Company on East Main Street in the rear of the Orcutt Block.

He graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute at the age of 16, with the Bachelor of Science degree and two years later from Harvard College with the Bachelor of Arts degree. He attended the Harvard Law School for a year.

In 1900 he was elected to the board of school visitors in Hartford. Three years later he was elected a state representative and

in 1904 a state senator. During the World War he was in charge of Y.M.C.A. work at a debarkation port in France.

He served as governor of the State one term, from 1921 to 1923, and as lieutenant-governor from 1907 to 1909. His portrait is in the State Library at Hartford.

## ISAAC MERRITT AGARD

Isaac M. Agard, Ph.D., (Amherst) the esteemed principal of Rockville High School for eighteen years (1888-1906) was inaugurated president of Tillotson College, Austin, Texas, in the year 1906. He assumed the duties of the presidency with a great desire to build up the college and increase its usefulness. A Christian gentleman, scholar and educator with modern aims, he raised the standards of general scholarship and also stressed industrial education; domestic art was added to the course of study on his recommendation and the largest student body the college ever had was enrolled during his term of office. There stands a social science building to which his name is attached. He was loved by students and teachers.

He resigned from Tillotson in 1918 to become dean and professor of education at Straight College, New Orleans, Louisiana (now Dillard University) where he served six years, part of one year acting as president. After eighteen years' service of great usefulness, Dr. Agard retired to Spencer, Massachusetts, where he passed away on January 28, 1925.

## WALTER RAYMOND AGARD

### Graduate of the Grammar School in Rockville

Walter Raymond Agard, professor of Classics; A.B. Amherst College, 1915 B. Litt., Oxford University, England, 1921; Litt. D., Cornell College 1948; student Sorbonne, France, 1921-22; fellow American School of Classical Studies, Athens, 1922: fellow Johns Hopkins, 1925-26; Instructor of Greek. Amherst College, 1916-17. 1922-23; professor of Classics and Fine Arts, St. Johns College, Annapolis, Maryland, 1923-27, dean, 1924-27; lecturer art history, Johns Hopkins, 1924; professor of Classics, University of Wisconsin, since 1927, chairman department of Classics since 1938; member staff of University of Wisconsin Experimental College 1927-31; department of Integrated Liberal Studies since 1948; lecturer in

classics, University of Michigan, summer, 1928. Member Archaeological Institute of America, American Philological Association, Classical Association Atlantic States, Classical Association Middle West and South (President 1943-44), American Classical League, (President), American Federation of Teachers, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Delta Phi, Delta Sigma Rho. Board of Directors, American Council of Learned Societies, 1951—Author; The Greek Tradition in Sculpture, 1930; The New Architectural Sculpture, 1935; Medical Greek and Latin, 1937; What Democracy Meant to the Greeks, 1942, Classical Myths in Sculpture, 1950. Contributed articles on art, classics, and education to journals. Lecturer on ancient and modern art for Archaeological Institute of America, clubs, museums.

## LYMAN TWINING TINGIER

It falls to the lot of few men to leave behind them such a worthy record of good citizenship as that left by Lyman Twining Tingier in the city of Rockville and the State of Connecticut.

The best monument is the memory of his fellow townsmen. Mr. Tingier became prominent in the professional and civic affairs of Rockville and vicinity, and was recognized as a potent influence in the advancement of material prosperity. It is as a permanent benefactor of their culture, their spiritual and intellectual development that posterity will remember him. He was as much at home with the simplest people as with the most prominent.

Through his direct paternal line and through several collateral lines, Mr. Tingier descended from several of the oldest and most honored families of New England. His family name was originally Tinker and was changed by legislative act in 1857 to the present form of Tingier. John Tinker was the founder of the family in America.

Lyman Twining Tingier was born in Webster, Massachusetts, June 9, 1862, and died in Rockville April 3, 1920. In 1888 he was graduated from Yale Law School and was soon after admitted to the Connecticut Bar at New Haven.

In 1893 he was appointed Clerk of the Superior Court of Tolland County in which office he continued until his death. In 1911 he was elected Mayor of the city of Rockville, an office he filled with unimpeachable integrity.

He was representative from Vernon to the House of Repre-

sentatives and during the second term of Governor Simeon Baldwin, from 1913-15, was Lieutenant Governor.

He was judge of city court of Rockville; member High School Committee; member of the Board of School Visitors; member of the Vernon Town School Committee; Director of the Savings Bank of Rockville.

He died at the early age of 57. Out of respect to his memory the flag on the Capitol in Hartford and on the flag pole in Central Park in Rockville were at half mast from the time of his death until the funeral. His portrait in the Lieut. Governor's room in the Capitol was draped. He belonged to several fraternal organizations and Union Congregational Church.

## DWIGHT MARCY

Dwight Marcy was born June 8, 1840, in Union, Tolland County, Connecticut. He studied law in Hartford and was admitted to the bar in 1865. He began practice in Plainfield, but on his appointment as State's Attorney for Tolland County in June, 1867, he removed his office to Rockville where he continued until his death.

In May, 1867, he was chosen assistant clerk of the House of Representatives of the State, and served as clerk of the same body the following year, and as clerk of the Senate in 1869.

In 1878, 1879, and 1880, he was elected to represent the town of Vernon in the House; he was an influential member of the assembly in the first and second years of his service, and was elected as Speaker at the remaining session. At the time of his death he was the recognized leader of the bar in Tolland County. After having suffered from Bright's Disease for a long time, he died suddenly at his home May 7, 1887, at the age of 47.

His portrait is in the Speakers room of the State Capitol.

## JUDGE GEORGE TALCOTT

George Talcott was born in Hartford, January 20, 1827, in the days of the stage coach. When he came to Rockville, there was but one store in a wooden building north of the Rock Mill.

In 1864, already a deputy sheriff, Mr. Talcott was appointed a justice of the peace. In those early days prior to 1887, Judge Talcott tried all police cases, but when the city organized the Police Court, he was relieved of these criminal cases.

Judge Talcott's court room was the scene of many interesting cases. Here Judge Dwight Loomis fought legal battles. Here Edward E. Marvin, later a Commissioner of the United States Court, brought cases, as did Benezet H. Bill, later Judge of the Police Court. Mr. Charles Phelps, Secretary of State, tried his first case here. A. P. Hyde of Tolland also used this court room.

The room in which Judge Talcott held court was erected by his father and fitted up as a court room. This was in the building which is now used as a parsonage and kindergarten school by the Union Congregational Church.

Some idea of the amount of business a trial justice had may be gathered from the fact that in one year, 1885, 155 cases were tried, while some 50 or 60 were settled out of court after legal proceedings were instituted. Judge Talcott tried at least 2,500 cases in his thirty years as trial justice.

On his 90th birthday, he had the unique record of 53 years as Director of the First National Bank, President 49 years, and was presented with a silver loving cup.

## FREDERICK SWINDELLS

Frederick Swindells, 89, passed away at Boston, September 19, 1937.

He left school at the age of 12 to work in a mill. He came to America in 1869, and his first work in this country was at Beacon Falls, Massachusetts, where an English friend helped him to learn weaving. He later became a loom fixer at a mill in Mystic Bridge.

While at Mystic Bridge, his ability was recognized and six months after he began working for the concern he was made overseer of the weaving department. In 1874 he visited England and brought his parents to Milbury, Massachusetts. Upon his return, he became overseer and designer in one of the largest woolen mills in this country at the time, the Maynard plant of the American Woolen Company. In 1886 he went to Fall River, Massachusetts, to take charge of the Jesse Eddy Manufacturing Company as superintendent of the woolen mill.

He came to Rockville in 1891 as superintendent of the Rock Manufacturing Company. In 1901 he became general manager and soon began buying out the various stockholders. Ultimately he became sole owner of the mill.

The Rock Manufacturing Company was the first in this country to manufacture overcoat cloth for the French government in 1914. When the United States entered World War I, he offered the entire production of the mill for government use, and during the time it was used for this purpose, enough material was woven to make 500,000 overcoats.

He was a member of the Washington Commandery, Knights Templar, Hartford, and a trustee of the Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs.

Many worthy charities have benefited by his generosity through individual donations and his allotment of funds from the Frederick W. Swindells Charitable Foundation. He lived quietly and his devotion to home and family manifested itself in the form of a Carillon Tower at the Hill Crest Park Cemetery, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Among the charities is the special fund for the care of Rockville patients who need attention and cannot afford to pay for care at both St. Francis and Hartford Hospitals in Hartford.

## BENEZET HOUGH BILL

Benezet Hough Bill was born February 26, 1829, at New Milford, Pennsylvania, and received his primary education in the state of his birth. When but six years old he made the trip with his parents to Connecticut. His first school teacher was his father. Later he attended the Lebanon Academy, the Suffield Literary Institute, and the Academy at Wilbraham, Massachusetts. He taught school at Lebanon, Connecticut, and in 1851 entered the law office of Hon. Dwight Loomis at Rockville, and graduated from the Yale Law School at New Haven in the class of 1854 with the degree of B.L.

Possessing fine natural talent and superior qualifications, he established in a very brief period not only a remunerative business, but a most excellent reputation as a citizen and a grand and kindly gentleman. In 1869 he was appointed State's Attorney for Tolland County, and held the office for twenty-four years. He held the position of Judge of the Rockville City Court for many years, resigning in 1899, owing to the age limit. For a number of years he was corporation counsel and prosecuting attorney.

He was one of the first lawyers to practice in the county of Tolland.

## LEBBEUS BISSELL

Lebbeus Bissell was born January 8, 1810, at Wolcottville (now Torrington) Connecticut. When a boy of ten he came to Vernon to live with his uncle, Lebbeus P. Tinker, a prominent citizen, merchant, postmaster, and for 30 years, 1815-45, town clerk. The trip by team, there being no other way of transportation at that time, was a great adventure for the boy. He arrived with his father at Uncle Tinker's home on April 1, 1820.

He stayed with his uncle at Vernon until he was twenty-one years of age, and under his guidance received his first training in business. He attended school in Vernon, and in 1825 spent six months in the first term of the famous John Hall School at Ellington.

In 1835, in company with Bela Abbott, he took charge of the mercantile business of Lebbeus P. Tinker, the new firm name being Bissell & Abbott. This partnership continued for about five years, when Mr. Bissell became sole proprietor.

Mr. Bissell continued in the mercantile business in Vernon until November, 1847, when he removed his stock of goods to Rockville, bought out the interest of George Maxwell in the firm of White & Maxwell, and with Stanley White formed the new firm of White & Bissell. The business was located on the southwest corner of West Main and Union Streets. The firm was in existence about ten years when Mr. Bissell sold out to George Groves, E. S. Henry and Joseph Selden. Soon after this Mr. Bissell built a handsome block on West Main Street, almost opposite Vernon Avenue, where he resumed business and continued until the end of his mercantile career, when he disposed of his business to Cyrus White. About 1870 was established the insurance firm of L. Bissell & Son which has grown and developed into a leading insurance business.

In 1824, when a boy of fourteen, Mr. Bissell took a trip to Sturbridge, Massachusetts, which he never forgot. He accompanied Simeon Cooley, who was taking in a load of teasels (used to raise a nap on woolen cloth). While in Sturbridge he saw the Marquis de Lafayette.

In 1836 Mr. Bissell cast his first Presidential vote for Martin VanBuren, and voted for every Democratic candidate during his life, though he did not enter actively into politics. He died at the age of 93 years.

## E. STEVENS HENRY

Honorable Stevens Henry at an early age became a resident of Rockville where he attended the local schools. During early manhood he went into the dry goods business. As Mr. Henry succeeded in business, so his position and influence in the town became increasingly useful. He was among the most prominent of those who founded the industrial and business growth of Rockville.

In 1882 he was elected to the State Legislature. In 1888 he was nominated and elected State treasurer, and served until 1913. He was Rockville's third mayor, and was elected to Congress for four successive terms, from 1895-1913.

His public bequests totaled approximately $300,000. The Rockville City Hospital received a bequest of $100,000, the City of Rockville received Fox Hill, valued at $25,000, for a public park and $25,000 in cash for improving the grounds; the Henry Building, located in the center of Rockville, was given to the town of Vernon, and the town was also remembered with a presentation of $30,000 to build a mortuary chapel at Grove Hill cemetery. The High School, Connecticut Agricultural College and the Connecticut Historical Society were also remembered.

He was a lover of nature and the great outdoors. In his extremely busy life he found spare moments to devote to the study of agricultural pursuits, evolving plans for the betterment of this activity. He was the owner of a fine herd of thoroughbred Jerseys and took great pride in his splendid stock farm. He was a lover of flowers, and had a beautiful rose garden. A gentleman of the old school, he was chivalrous and ever thoughtful of others.

## THE MAXWELLS

The coming of George Maxwell to Rockville in 1847 brought industrial development. He was a descendant of Hugh Maxwell, a "minute-man" of Lexington, and a lieutenant colonel in the Massachusetts forces in the Revolutionary War.

The grandson George was born in Charlemont, Massachusetts, July 30, 1817. After he had opened a general store at the southwest corner of Main and Union Streets, Rockville—on grounds which he and his children were later to beautify as their place of residence—he became identified with the New England Manufac-

turing Company, which Allen Hammond and George Kellogg had started in 1836.

Allen Park Hammond, David Sykes, Charles Bottomley and George Sykes became closely associated with George Maxwell, or, as he was known, "Deacon" Maxwell. Under the able leadership of George Maxwell the mills made great progress. In 1880 his oldest son, Francis Taylor Maxwell, went to work for the Hockanum mill as bookkeeper and secretary, and became treasurer and president upon the death of his father, April 2, 1891. In 1906, the Hockanum Mills Company was organized as a holding corporation with $6,000,000. capital with Francis T. Maxwell as president. Four companies were combined: The Hockanum, The Springville, The New England, and The Minterburn (or the former Warp Mill reconstructed).

Francis T. Maxwell was born in Rockville, January 4, 1861, educated in the public schools, and was a member of the class of 1880, Rockville High School. In 1896 he was elected a member of the City Common Council; in 1898 he represented the town in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly; in 1900 he was elected to the State Senate by the voters of the 23rd District;

THE MAXWELL MANSION

and in 1892 was commissioned Aide-de-Camp with the title of Colonel on Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley's staff.

Colonel Maxwell has enshrined himself for all time in the hearts of the people. He had a skillful hand: he sewed up the seams of discord; he had a radiant mind; and he had a generous heart, whose quiet benefactions reached innumerable homes.

## THE FOUR BROTHERS SYKES

### GEORGE SYKES

George Sykes, born of an ancestry of skilled woolen workers on April 4, 1840, died on December 23, 1903. He came from Honley, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England. When he was eleven years of age he came to America, and found employment in the woolen mills of E. S. Hall and Company at Millville, Massachusetts. At the age of fourteen he was placed in the carding room, and in 1863 was given charge of the weaving in the woolen mills of Frederick Fullerton & Company of Cavendish, Vermont, where his marked efficiency gave him within a year the position of Superintendent of the mills.

In the year 1866 he came to Rockville to assume the management of the Hockanum Mills. With tireless energy he introduced new equipment and business methods, and sought to make the Hockanum brand of goods the best in the country.

It was in the twilight of his years that he passed away. Funeral services were held on a day of a severe storm, December 26, in Union Congregational Church of which he was a faithful member. At that service the Rev. Dr. Charles E. McKinley, his pastor, paid this noble tribute:

> "Of all the men I have ever known, Mr. Sykes was one of the most genuine. He loved the sincere, the solid, the substantial, the enduring; and he was what he loved. He hated all sham and pretense and make-believe with a most righteous hatred. Deceit and trickery of every kind were foreign to his nature. He would rather fight a man any day than deceive him. In the goods he made, and in the men he loved as friends, required the qualities that will wear. If he built a house, or helped to build a church, it must be not only fair and beautiful, but substantial and enduring. If he bought a picture to

hang upon his walls, it must be a real thing of beauty that would be a lasting joy, not a piece of prettiness that would soon lose its charm.

The same love of sincerity and reality appeared in his religion. If he acknowledged fewer religious obligations than some, he lived up to what he did acknowledge better than most. Speaking to me once of his preference — a very natural preference, indeed—for the substantial things of his native England over the more showy ways of France, he told me, with a tenderness that I rejoice to recall today, that he was baptized in infancy by the same minister that had baptized his mother as a child before him and had continued all those years in the service of the same parish. He loved enduring truth, and he loved the men and the institutions that embodied such truth in themselves. We take comfort today, as we bid him an earthly farewell, in remembering that this man had his feet firmly planted on the Rock of Ages."

## THOMAS W. SYKES

Thomas W. Sykes came to Rockville from North Adams, Massachusetts, where for thirty-three years he had carried the large responsibilities of superintendent and general manager of the North Adams Manufacturing Company. Beginning as a boy working on a broad loom at Millville, Massachusetts, he advanced step by step in the woolen industry until he was recognized as one of the most capable managers of his day.

He was born in Yorkshire, England, November 16, 1842, then after a long and successful period in Massachusetts took up his residence in Rockville, Connecticut, in the year 1906 as the head of the Minterburn Manufacturing Company. Here he established an attractive home at the corner of Davis and Ellington Avenues, but to the regret of the entire community he died three years later—Wednesday, July 21, 1909. He was a Christian gentleman with large vision and fair judgment.

## JAMES T. SYKES

James T. Sykes, whose death occurred at Rockville on November 19, 1894, at the early age of thirty-nine years, was from boyhood a resident of Rockville, where he was highly esteemed. Born in 1855, at Millville, he came to Rockville at the age of fourteen

and entered the mill of the Hockanum Company, familiarizing himself with the work of every department until he was made superintendent. His sturdy character and honesty of purpose in all things were greatly admired by the community.

### DAVID A. SYKES

Born February 2, 1858, at Millville, Massachusetts, David A. Sykes began his career in the humblest position in the mills. He started as a bobbin boy, and by dint of tireless pertinacity he became a weaver, a designer, assistant superintendent, and finally general superintendent. He was the first superintendent of the new Springville Mill. He liked the average workingman, and was a friend to everybody.

He served well the city in a civic capacity as a member of the City Council, representing the First Ward for seven years; also as a director of bank, library, and Sykes High School.

He was exceedingly fond of Union Congregational Church, where he regularly occupied a central pew. He was particularly fond of a Boy's Band. Not many knew his ability as a talented cornetist.

He belonged to the fraternal organization of Fayette Lodge No. 69, the Knights Templar, and Sphinx Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

Rich and poor, employers and employees had great confidence in David A. Sykes. His beautiful home on Elm Street was sold to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

## ANTONI N. SADLAK

### REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE

Antoni Nicholas Sadlak was born at Rockville on June 13, 1908. A graduate of Rockville High School, Mr. Sadlak took the prelegal course at Georgetown College and was granted the LL.B. degree from Georgetown University School of Law, Washington, D. C. After a few months with a private concern, he became a special inspector with the Special Inspections Service of the United States Justice Department, and then served as executive secretary to Congressman at Large B. J. Monkiewicz, of Connecticut. In March, 1944, he resigned this position to accept a commission in the United States Naval Reserve. After training, he was assigned as communications watch officer and top secret officer on the staff of Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, commander of the Seventh Fleet.

His duty carried him to New Guinea, the Philippines and China. As Representative-at-Large, from the State of Connecticut, he has served four terms in Congress. A member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, he has also been a member of the Sub-committee on Administration of Internal Revenue Laws, and the Committee on Committees.

## JOHN W. MIDDLETON

Brig. General John W. Middleton, a native of Melrose, Connecticut, and a graduate of Rockville High School, has just retired from his army career after 35 years of service. Graduated from West Point in 1918, he served in Europe after the end of the first World War. Returning to this country, he moved from post to post —an instructor of mathematics at West Point from 1924-29, and as an ROTC instructor at Ohio State University from 1930-36. He served under Generals Stilwell and Wedemeyer in China and then under General George Marshall all during the latter's diplomatic mission to China after the War.

Middleton aided in preparing the Chinese army for its invation of Burma and of East China.

Later Middleton served as army attaché in India from 1947 to 1949.

General Middleton holds the Legion of Merit for his work in China during the war. He was also awarded the First Class Medal of the Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Force for his services which included directing the Chinese Training Center of the Army and serving as deputy chief of staff which helped the Chinese to drive the Japanese out of southwest China opening up the Burma road. He also served as president of the War Crimes Commission in China after the War.

# IN THE WORLD OF MUSIC

## CARL McKINLEY

Carl McKinley was born October 9, 1895, at Yarmouth, Maine, son of a Congregational clergyman who removed soon afterwards to Rockville, Connecticut, where most of his boyhood was passed. In 1911 the family moved to Galesburg, Illinois, where he entered Knox Conservatory of Music and also spent two years in Knox College, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Music in 1915. Entering Harvard the next year, he was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1917 with special honors in music. A fellowship from Harvard enabled him to spend the next winter in New York, studying composition with Ruben Goldmark and organ with Gaston M. Dethier. The following spring he accepted the position of organist and choirmaster of the Center Congregational Church of Hartford, Connecticut, where in addition to a large modern organ he had at his disposal a chorus choir of twenty-five voices which attracted wide notice for the excellence of its work. In addition to his church duties, Mr. McKinley had a large class of private pupils, and for a time acted as organist for one of the principal moving picture theatres of Hartford.

In 1923 he accepted an offer to become organist of the Capitol Theatre, New York City, at that time the largest picture theatre in the world, and later acted for some time as assistant conductor of the Capitol Orchestra of eighty men, which ranked with the best symphonic organizations in New York.

In 1927 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for European study, and spent the following year in Paris working in composition with Mlle. Nadia Boulanger; a renewal of the fellowship having been granted, a second year was spent in Munich, part of which was devoted to a detailed study of the Munich Opera, where Mr. McKinley was solo coach and stage assistant.

Returning to America in the fall of 1929 he was engaged by the late George W. Chadwick as lecturer of Music History and instructor in Composition at the New England Conservatory of Music; he later became head of the Theory Department, as well as instructor in organ at the Conservatory. In June, 1930, Mr. McKinley received the honorary degree of Doctor of Music from Knox College. In September, 1931, he was appointed organist and choirmaster of the Old South Church in Boston, where he presides over

one of the largest and finest organs in New England. He has built up the Old South Church Choir into a choral organization of the first rank, which until the outbreak of the war gave several programs each season of oratorio and choral selections which attracted wide attention.

As a composer Mr. McKinley first attracted attention while at Harvard with a motet for mixed voices, "The Man of Galilee," which won the Francis Boott Prize, a sonata for violin and piano, and an orchestral sketch entitled "Indian Summer Idyl" which was first performed by the orchestra of the New England Conservatory under Mr. Chadwick in May, 1917.

A symphonic poem, "The Blue Flower" was awarded the Flagler prize in 1921, and subsequently performed by both the New York Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony orchestras. With his third symphonic venture, "Masquerade," Mr. McKinley scored a real hit. First performed under the composer's direction at a New York Stadium concert in 1926, it has since had over thirty performances by leading symphonic organizations in America, including those of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Syracuse and Boston (the symphony concerts of January 16 and 17, 1931) and in various German cities, including Munich and Breslau. Since that time Mr. McKinley has written a String Quartet, a Chorale, Variations and Fugue for Orchestra (recently performed at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester) and numerous small pieces, especially for organ, quite a number of which are published by J. Fischer & Brother and the H. W. Gray Company of New York.

With regard to Mr. McKinley's organ playing, the following comments were included in a review of a concert in Providence, Rhode Island, by the critic of the Providence Journal:

"A few minutes of his organ playing were enough to show that here was an artist of unusual talents and that his abilities as a performer were equal to his gifts of composition. His playing showed absolute security of technique and all the mechanics which give adequate equipment for all organistic needs. When one adds to these a very high degree of musicality which gives fine artistry to all of the varied offerings of a widely comprehensive program, it must be evident that this was not only a very enjoyable performance but that it was on a very high plane of artistic expression."

The Worcester Telegram (March 14, 1944) had the following to say regarding a recital in All Saints Church:

"Dr. McKinley is an organist of virtuoso stature. His program had balance and exceptional merit. Technically and interpretively it was a privileged evening of organ music."

## THE HAMMOND BOYS

The Fourth of July was a busy day in the life of the Hammonds on Elm Street. Father "Joe" in the early morning light called to the boys in bed to be ready for their annual patriotic demonstration. After a hasty breakfast, the family started on their curious parade: William Churchill Hammond, a thrilled boy of eight years, smote his snare drum lustily. Before him his ex-soldier father blew his fife in martial tunes. Behind him brother Charles Hammond hugged a base drum, and behind the drum, Mother Hammond handled the base drum sticks.

And the parade was on—through the streets of the sleeping city, the Hammond Drum and Fife Quartette passed.

In 1868, these two boys, proficient drummers, appeared on numerous occasions in the city. They went to Hartford and drummed in a parade there. They were so small that they could not march, so they rode in a carriage while they drummed. And their success in drumming resulted in the organization a few years later by J. C. Hammond, Jr., of the Hammond Silver Drum Corps.

## GENERAL GRANT AND THE HAMMOND BOYS

In the year 1870, General Ulysses S. Grant accepted an invitation to visit Connecticut and to speak at Woodstock on the 4th of July. It proved to be a memorable event. Crowds greeted the President on his arrival in Hartford, where he was the guest of Governor Jewell. A public reception was held at the Allyn House. The president was escorted by the Governor's Food Guard with the Armory Band of Springfield, and the City Guard with Colt's Band. There was a reception in the evening on the illuminated grounds of the Governor's residence, with a display of fireworks.

Vernon people had a delightful part in the visit of the President. Early Monday morning, July 4th, a special train left Hartford and proceeded to Putnam via Plainfield. Henry Ward Beecher rode on the new engine, "Governor Jewell," from Bolton to Plain-

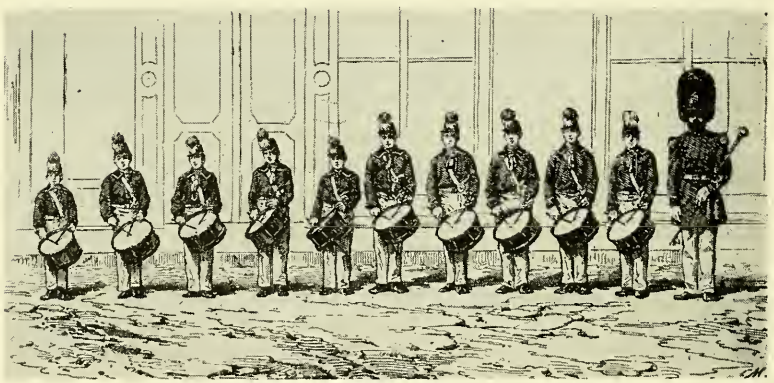
field. The train stopped at Manchester, Vernon, Willimantic, Baltic and Plainfield.

Superintendent McManus of the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad had thoughtfully planned to have the two Hammond boys—proficient drummers—Will Hammond, eight years of age and Charles, five years of age—play for the President.

As the train pulled in at the depot the boys saluted the General on the platform and then demonstrated their musical ability. The President shook their hands heartily and warmly congratulated them.

The excursion to Vernon carried hundreds of Rockville people to greet the president, but there was one rift in the lute, one discordant note in the joyous occasion. Only one individual from Rockville had the pleasure of a formal introduction to the Republican President, and he was the staunchest Democrat in the State—a democrat emphatically—Lebbeus Bissell.

The Woodstock visit was a huge success. The brilliant Henry Ward Beecher was one of the speakers. President Grant and a few others later repaired to the lawn in front of the Academy, and there the Grant elm tree was planted.



HAMMOND SILVER DRUM CORPS

*(The Daily Graphic, New York, October 15, 1877).*

## THE HAMMOND SILVER DRUM CORPS

In 1876, the Hammond Silver Drum Corps was organized under the inspirational leadership of J. C. Hammond, Jr. This juvenile drum band was composed of boys from ten to sixteen years of age, and became famous throughout New England. Often they were invited to participate in various celebrations. They appeared in red shirts and white pants, with a tall, colored drum major at their head.

Here are the names of the original Hammond Drum Corps:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Howard K. James | aged 10 | A. T. Thompson | aged 14 |
| George G. Smith | " 10 | Fred Mills | " 15 |
| Elmer E. Pember | " 12 | W. J. Austin | " 16 |
| Irving C. Treat | " 12 | Clarence T. Bolles | " 16 |
| C. H. Hammond | " 13 | W. C. Hammond | " 16 |

William Nelson, drum major, colored, over 6 ft.

They accompanied the Hartford City Guard to the White Mountains, N. H., and enjoyed their hospitality for two weeks. They were entertained at the Glen House on Sunday, July 6, 1884, and a copy of the elaborate menu is the precious possession of a few people in Rockville in these days.

*The Daily Graphic,* New York, carried a picture of the Hammond Silver Drum Corps in parade, in their issue of Monday, October 15, 1877.

## THE ROCKVILLE DRUM CORPS

The Hammond Silver Drum Corps was reorganized after a few years and its name changed to the Rockville Drum Corps. It met with great success for several years. Colonel Amos Pease in 1872 engineered the first of a series of five Drummers' Conventions, beginning at Somers; the second re-union was held at Ellington, the third at Stafford, and the fourth and fifth at Rockville.

The convention of 1876 at Rockville brought a hundred drummers and fifers from adjacent counties. They had come to compete for honors. On the veranda of the Rockville House were piled stacks of drums of various shapes and sizes. They woke the echoes.

The line of march was through Main, Union, Village, Orchard, Main, Vernon Avenue, Brooklyn, Market, Elm, Prospect, Main and Park Streets to Talcott Park, where competition for prizes took place. While the procession was marching, the church and mill

bells and steam whistles helped by their joyous sounds to swell the chorus, and there was a general hubbub the like of which was never heard before.

PRIZES AWARDED

| | |
|---|---|
| Drum sticks | Sergeant Hubbard, New Britain |
| Fife | Joseph Heck, Hartford |
| Cloth | Thomas Lloyd, Willimantic |
| Cloth | O. G. Hanks, Mansfield |
| Chromo | W. C. Hammond, Rockville |

The veteran horse of J. C. Hammond was brought into requisition and Joe rigged out in Yankee Doodle style, and with drum strapped upon his back and a six-foot fife in his hand. Various stories of the convention were told: Some claim that the music was heard as far as Chicago, and the sound reaching there in the night time, the mayor ordered the fire bells to be rung as an alarm, supposing that the southern marauders were marching on the city. When the first blast was given by the veterans, the proprietors of the "New York Sun" hearing the sound immediately dispatched a reporter to the spot, hence the excellent report in that paper.

In the summer of 1884 the Rockville Drum Corps escorted the Hartford City Guard Company to the top of Mt. Washington. The members of the drum corps went to Hartford by horse drawn conveyances. They remained in Hartford all night, camping in the armory there. They started at day break the next morning with the Hartford City Guards for Boston. There they boarded a train for Portland. They were entertained royally when they arrived in the Maine city. A person who was with the corps at the time said that none of them could spend any money. They even had their boots blacked free. Their headquarters were at the old Falmouth Hotel. Those were the days when Maine was the only prohibition state in the Union. So cards were distributed to the members to visit a certain part of the hotel "if they were sick." It is said that nearly everyone in the party reported sick.

They had a trip around Casco Bay and took the train again for Gorham in the White Mountains. From there they went to the Glen House by stage coaches.

The next day everyone was up early, for it was decided to march to the top of Mt. Washington. It was a very hot day in the middle of summer. It was a sorry looking crowd that finally arrived at the top, tired, dirty and hungry. Williver Driggs of Vernon, who was bass drummer, carried the old bass drum to the top of the mountain.

## PICKED UP HERE AND THERE

Frederick Kuhnly, born in Rockville, started his musical career when he was eight years old. He took his first vocal lesson at the age of 17, with Mrs. Percy Cooley as teacher, and his first public appearance was in Union Church Choir under the direction of Wesley Howard of Hartford. At the age of 18, he went to New York and entered the Institute of Musical Art. He became tenor soloist in the Old Bergen Reform Church and Temple Emanuel, New York City. Concert work followed, then radio. He was one of the pioneers of commercial programs. He did work also in Broadway musicals.

He was vocalist at the Capitol Theater for a season, recording for Columbia and Victor recording companies. He was associated with such radio sponsors as General Motors, Westinghouse, Socony Oil, Prudential Life, Cities Service, Atwater Kent, Telephone Hour, Firestone and others. He served on the staff at Columbia Broadcasting Company for three years, and was soloist at the World's Fair in the "Railroads on Parade" Show.

The Talcott Brass Band of 28 pieces gave a concert in the First Congregational Church of Rockville as early as February 6, 1853.

Rockville City Band of 27 pieces made its initial bow to the public on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1919, in an elaborate Concert and Ball at Turn Hall.

Francis "Cork" O'Keefe, of New York City, managed successfully for years the famous Casa Loma Orchestra. He was a graduate of Rockville High School, and lived as a boy at 142 Union Street with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Keefe.

Frank C. Eidam enlisted with the West Point Band at the Academy in 1922. For 25 years he was a drummer. He retired in 1952 with 30 years of service to his credit.

John Gworek joined the West Point Band, and was transferred to the United States Marine Band. He retired in 1954 with 30 years of service.

Lester Ludke pianist, Harry Goldfield trumpet and assistant director of Paul Whiteman's orchestra.

Emil Dintch for nearly 30 years a drummer at West Point.

Jack Keeney, tenor saxophonist, with several of the country's name bands.

Harry Brown trombonist with 13th Infantry Band, Fort Adams, New York.

Bruno Ertel, clarinetist with Creatore's Band in California for many years. He died in 1952, aged 84 years.

William Fay, cornetist for several years with Barnum and Bailey's Circus.

The Brandenburg family, Billie, Pete, Herman and Paul, four very talented musicians. Billie with Sousa's Band several years.

George P. Windheiser, for many years a talented and popular musician, who with his father owned and operated successfully a music store on the Boardwalk in Rockville.

Miss Mariette N. Fitch, teacher and encourager of many talented pupils.

St. Bernard's Band organized fifty years ago.

The Polish Boys' Band, John Loalbo, director.

The Elks Boys' Band, Max Kabrick, conductor.

The Citizens Band, sponsored a Roller Skating Rink Concert at the old Envelope Shop in 1882. Floor space 90 x 40 ft.

Ernest Hensig's Band.

Rockville Fife and Drum Corps.

American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps.

From 1890 to 1910 Rockville was noted for its celebrated minstrel organizations. There were ten local troups, among the more prominent and active were The Mastodon Minstrels organized in 1904; Pythian Club Minstrels organized in 1908; the Sunnyside Minstrels; Elks Minstrels; Red Men Minstrels; St. John's Temperance Society Minstrels; and the Rockville Baseball Club Minstrels.

The Fortnightly Musical Club formed in 1911 to foster young talent in the community.

Rockville Male Chorus with a membership of 30, organized at the home of George G. Smith on January 9, 1912.

Rockville Junior Music Club organized by pupils of Miss Edith Ransom, teacher, and affiliated with the State Federation of Music Clubs.

The Liedertafel Singing Society organized in 1876 by a group of German residents, and still in existence. The Society has won many prizes in State contests.

The Ampion Quintel of Rockville: tenors, Messrs. T. Wm. Sturgeon, C. W. Gorman, C. W. Hale; basses, Messrs. E. H. Dorr and A. E. Waite.

FIRST ATHLETIC FIELD ON ORCHARD STREET

# IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THE FIRST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

A patriarch of Rockville, signing himself "Veteran" in the Evening Post of Hartford many years ago, described graphically a baseball game, the first Fourth of July celebration in Rockville, in the year 1825, 130 years ago. There were three important public celebrations in those years—Fast Day, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

"It came to pass that the Rock Mill shut down at 12 o'clock and all the male operatives were called into the field to play baseball. Mr. George Kellogg and Mr. Ralph Talcott were principals in the game. All hands engaged in the celebration with zeal. It was fashionable in old times to take a little sour punch on the fourth of July. So between the innings the pail of punch came around, and we drank a cup each time of half-a-pint. The expense of the celebration was $2.46. Twenty men were assessed 12½ cents each, which sum was found sufficient to pay the bills—the three quarts of rum, 60 cents; small loaf of sugar, 60 cents; two dozen lemons, 48 cents; four pounds of cheese, 32 cents; 4 pounds crackers, 32 cents, in all—$2.32. For going after spirits, 14 cents. Therefore, every expense was balanced to the entire satisfaction of the company and without disaster. I fancy some few persons will sigh to read the story about drinking, but I can assure you that it was considered unsafe to bear extreme heat or cold without taking a little sling."

## THE FOURTH OF JULY ACCORDING TO GEORGE M. BROWN

Everybody celebrated the Fourth here back in the 1860's. It was the general rule to have four picnics on that day.

The Good Templars' picnic was held in Talcott Grove where the F. T. Maxwell residence now stands. All temperance drinks were served and plenty to eat. A clam bake with all the fixings was a feature. There was also cake, ice cream and ice cold lemonade, good music and dancing.

A short distance north of the Talcott Grove in Doane's Grove, the Rockville German Turners Society held its picnic. Good music

and dancing, plenty to eat and drink. Everyone made merry. Lemonade, ginger pop, and cool lager were some of the favorite drinks. Drinking out of a horn was quite the thing, and the new beginner drinking out of a horn was as good as a circus.

At Grant's Grove on Talcott Avenue, the Rockville German Sick and Singing Society had its picnic.

At Winchell's Grove, now part of Pillsbury Hill, the St. Bernard's Temperance Society held its picnic. To see the Irish reel and jig dancing was something. Temperance drinks were served.

The Rockville Baseball Association of over 80 members was organized on April 26, 1878. Officers were: President, George Talcott; Vice-Pres., M. W. Pember; Secretary, E. L. Heath; Treasurer, J. L. Washborn. The grounds were located on the Grant Lot, west of Orchard Street, at the foot of Talcott Avenue. There were two acres of land with entrances on Union and Orchard Streets. The grandstand was on the west end of the ball park, and the bleachers were on the north and south sections of the ground.

The Rockville Athletic Club was organized in 1918, with the original meeting place in White's Opera House, corner of Market and Brooklyn Streets. Roy Martin, Roger J. Murphy and William Hahn were active in its organization and subsequent operation. Pliney Krause was the prime mover in organizing this club.

Polo was a popular sport at the turn of the century in Rockville. The city had a team in the Western New England Polo League with Hartford. Middletown, Waterbury, New Haven, New Britain, Meriden and Springfield. The first local game was played in the Town Hall, November 8, 1899. About 250 people were present.

Shenipset Golf Club course was laid out in July, 1896, by Robert D. Pryde, New Haven. The grounds were beautifully situated on the west shore of the lake. It was originally laid out for private purposes on land owned by Francis T. and William Maxwell, and William H. Prescott. The full length of the course was 1,427 yards. In May of 1897 the Club was formed with the following officers: President, William Maxwell; Vice-President, Miss Lida Prescott; Secretary and Treasurer, A. T. Bissell. The course was lengthened to 1,930 yards and the membership grew to 93. Dances and parties were held frequently at the Clubhouse built in the same year of 1897.

A Cricket Club of Rockville belonged to a league which included Hartford, Holyoke and Springfield.

## ROCKVILLE'S STAR ATHLETES

Everett J. Lake of Rockville was not only a Governor of the State of Connecticut, but also a star half-back of the Harvard Football Team. He played against Yale at Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891, and was a member of the Harvard Varsity in 1892. He was named on the All-American team in 1891.

Lebbeus Bissell, a leading business man in Rockville, brought fame to the local city, when as a college student at Yale he played right tackle on the Varsity. The Yale News for Monday, November 9, 1903, describing the Yale-Syracuse game of the previous Saturday, says this of Bissell: "In the first half of the game, Bissell in the line was the only man who was doing any work. He used to run with the ball frequently. In the second half, two touchdowns were scored by Bissell."

Chester Waite, known as "Chet," brother of Mayor Albert Waite, played baseball with the Rockville team in 1904, 1905 and 1906. His unusual ability brought him a contract with the Springfield Eastern League Ball Club. He reached the majors when he won a place on the Chicago White Sox team of the American League.

It was a memorable day, August 13, 1904, when Christy Mathewson, one of baseball's all time "greats," pitched and John Scanlon caught for the Rockville team against Manchester.

Eddie Collins, another baseball great played with Rockville in the summer of 1906 at the very start of his distinguished career. He was a fast little short stop and later became varsity coach for Columbia.

Pliny Roy, who was in charge of ticket sales says that 2800 were sold, and he suspects that two or three hundred more managed to get in without paying.

With the great National League hurler sparking the team, the game ended with Rockville winning 5 to 2. Mathewson had twelve strikeouts to his credit.

At the time of this game, Rockville was leading the "big four" with a record of six wins and four losses. Behind Rockville, and in this order were Willimantic, Manchester, and Bristol.

What Mathewson was paid for his part of the game is not known, $250 or $200. He was brought here by Manager Waite of the Rockville team.

## THE BICYCLE AND WHEEL CLUB

During the early eighties Rockville was prominent for its bicycle riders who competed with much success at various county fairs and athletic events in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Among the more successful local bicycle riders were Will Tracy, who won several champion races ranging from one mile to five miles, and ranking a close second Herbert T. Holmes, still living at the ripe old age of 90 at his home, 16 Prospect Street, where he has resided for many years.

Mr. Holmes proudly exhibits to his many friends and acquaintances two beautiful solid silver ornamental vases with tops, and standing 12 inches high, which he won in contests at the Stafford Fair in October, 1884, winning first prize in the five mile race and second to Champion Tracy in the mile race.

The Rockville Wheel Club was organized September 1, 1891.

A magnificent cycling event at Hyde Park was held Saturday afternoon, July 8, 1893. Some of the greatest riders in the world were there. Among the cyclists of national reputation were A. A. Zimmerman, W. F. and C. M. Murphy, Carl Hess and George C. Smith of the New York Athletic Club, W. W. Windle and E. A. Nelson of Springfield, Mass., and Walter C. Sanger, Milwaukee.

In 1893, there were 27 manufacturers of bicycles. In 1899, it was estimated 1200 persons in the town of Vernon rode a wheel. Some daring females even donned bloomers, much to the horror of the more conservative.

## TOM THUMB IN THE VILLAGE

General Tom Thumb was here for a week in 1849 with the famous P. T. Barnum's show, later Barnum & Bailey Circus. (In legend Tom Thumb was a dwarf no larger than a man's thumb. He lived in the reign of King Arthur, the real or legendary 6th century King of the Britons. He was killed by the poisonous breath of a spider.)

The name of our General Tom Thumb was Charles S. Stratton, and he lived in Bridgeport. When he was five years old, he was not two feet high, and weighed less than sixteen pounds. In November, 1842, he was engaged by P. T. Barnum for four weeks at $3 per week and expenses, and was exhibited at his museum in New York City under the title of General Tom Thumb. At the end of four weeks he was engaged for one year at $7.00 a week and expenses of himself and parents, with the privilege of exhibit-

ing anywhere in the United States with a gratuity of $50 at the end of the season.

He went to England in the year 1844. He was presented to Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent and nobility. Upon being asked by Queen Victoria to sing them a song, he sang, "Yankee Doodle." The Queen presented him with a gold watch and chain, putting the chain about his neck herself. He went also to France. King Louis Philippe presented him with a large emerald brooch set with diamonds. From France, he went to Belgium.

In 1862 Lavinia Warren, of Middleboro, Massachusetts, was engaged by Barnum. Tom Thumb met her there, and on February 10, 1863, married her in New York City in Grace Church. They went on a wedding tour, and had the extreme pleasure of calling on Abraham Lincoln.

## TOM THUMB IN THE VILLAGE

George M. Brown writes of a hundred years ago—

"I well remember the first parade on the streets of Rockville in the show line. It was P. T. Barnum's Tom Thumb Show. It was in 1849. It was the first show given in what was Sears' Hall on Market Street, the first public hall in Rockville. General Tom Thumb, as he was called, was the smallest person of his age living. The carriage he rode in was very small and light. It was a four-wheeled one. There was a seat on the outside in front for the driver and a seat on the back end for the footman, while "Tom" rode inside, sitting up like a major general. The carriage was drawn by a pair of small Shetland ponies. The driver and footman were two small wide awake boys who traveled with the show. The whole rig was stylish all the way through.

"In the hall, while he was on the stage, Tom wore a major general's military suit, with sword and all the fixings of a military officer of high rank. He would march back and forth on the stage and put on airs. I passed around the show bills the time Barnum came to Rockville with Tom Thumb. He gave me a York shilling*—a 12½ cent piece—and a ticket for the show."

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*This coin was a Spanish silver coin, the **real.** Eight of these made a Spanish dollar, just as ten of our silver dimes make our dollar. They were known as "pieces of eight" and were valued at 12½ cents.

## ROCKVILLE—THE TAMBOURINE CITY

Known to a very limited number of the present generation is the fact that one of the greatest acts featured in both vaudeville and the circus originated in Rockville in the early eighties. Rockville boasted of one Bert Ransom, who first introduced the act of spinning a series of tambourines, and while Ransom did not commercialize on the act, which he introduced to the local public, he was instrumental in interesting other Rockville young men, including the Frieze Brothers (Billy and Larry), who improved the act.

The first time the act of spinning over four tambourines at one time was given in Rockville was at Henry Theater, April 28, 1891, by Billy Frieze with Vreeland's minstrels. He asserts he had the act copyrighted, No. 25,949, to protect his rights. Billy and Larry Frieze of Rockville (brothers) made their first appearance at Newton's Varieties in Hartford, when only 4 and 5 years of age. For many years they were with Barnum & Bailey's Circus. Their home was on East Main Street in Minterburn Court.

Other local boys who learned the celebrated act and practiced it with success for several years were Tambourine McCarthy, Bill Wienefeld, Doc Woodard, and Dan Curtis, of Vernon. Tambourine McCarthy, to excel other artists who performed with 12 tambourines at one time, perfected an apparatus whereby he could spin 14 tambourines.

But the greatest of them all were the brothers August and Walter Kleindienst. They were born in Rockville and lived on Minterburn Hill, and were two famous clowns, whose act was adapted for stage, cabaret, circus and galas. They became known throughout the world as Tambo and Tambo. They have performed in 39 countries, and have never had, or been in, an accident of any kind, never missed a train, never been ill, never lost an engagement and never lost any of their baggage. They have never been to California, but nearly everywhere else, including Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Egypt, Channel Islands, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, England, Scotland, Irish Free State and Wales.

## BOXING

In the year 1895 among the many attractions at the Snipsic Grove, none was more popular than the exhibition bout of John L. Sullivan and Paddy Ryan. Thousands of people witnessed it. The boxers arrived at noon from Boston, and were escorted to a hack by George Fitton to the Snipsic lower landing, where they took a steamer for the grove. A 16-foot ring had been erected just in front of the restaurant. Both Sullivan and Ryan were greeted with enthusiasm.

The boxing contest, however, was a disappointment to the vast crowd. They sparred only three rounds and after the exhibition Sullivan, luxuriantly lazy, went at once to his room and lay down. E. W. Foote, the well-known Springfield Republican correspondent, interviewed Sullivan after the contest and reported that the boxer was so heavy even the short exhibition winded him.

While the mighty John L. was in the city, he stayed at the Rockville House, and he displayed a good spirit by showering from his room window on the south side, handfuls of nickels and other coins to the vast crowd who had assembled to see him.

## STEPHEN J. FARRELL

Stephen J. Farrell was born at 225 East Main Street, Rockville, in the year 1864, and beeame coach and trainer of athletes at the University of Michigan in 1913, continuing until 1930. From 1918 until his death in 1933, the period in which Michigan University was a member of the Big Ten, his teams won five outdoor and four indoor track championships.

Les Etter, Athletic Publicity man at the University, wrote this commendation on November 6, 1953:

> "During World War I, although he was well over 50 years of age, Mr. Farrell passed the difficult air corps physical examination and was commissioned a first lieutenant. Up to a short time preceding his death, he kept in top physical condition and it was his boast that even at that age he could run faster backwards than most men could forward, and he was able to prove this statement.
>
> "His career was an interesting one. He was a professional foot racer in his younger days, specializing in the middle distance, and won the middle distance title of The

Sheffield Handicap, England, twice. He also was at one time a member of a circus troop and raced against a horse as part of the act and he claimed that he held a .800 average in victories."

In 1920 Farrell entisted in the Armed Forces and was commissioned as an officer, holding a position as a coach of the United States track personnel. Accompanied by Mrs. Farrell and a group of United States athletic coaches he attended the Olympic games at Holland and California.

"Steve" coached two (colored) world champion hurdlers and sprinters—Dehart Hubbard and Eddie Tolan.

He was very highly thought of by staff members, townspeople and of course, the athletes whom he coached. His widow still resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the good age of 88.

Stephen J. Farrell was buried in the family lot in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Rockville.

## COMMEMORATION

A poem dedicated to the Town of Vernon, written by Thomas Dwight Goodell, a graduate of Rockville High School in 1873 and Professor of Greek at Yale University 1893-1920.

As the Greek youth brought to his nurse a gift,
So bring I this thank-offering to our town.

### I

"More room!" said the folk of the river towns,
  Hartford and Windsor and Wethersfield.
  "There's good land east fair crops will yield.
Let the Old World fight for outworn crowns,
  We've better to do, building a state
Godly and free—and rich, maybe;
And if stepmotherly England frowns,
She's a long way off!" So they spread o'er the plain
Homes and billows of ripening grain,
  And on the hilltop consecrate
The House where God's word shall be strictly taught.
  Wheat, rye, and the red gold of Indian corn,
Wool and flax, which the women wrought
With distaff and spinning-wheel and loom—
  This was their wealth; and children were born,
Many and sturdy, and still there was room.
If dwellings were plain and winters were long,
They woke in June to the robin's song,
  In the high elm orioles hung their nest,
The bobolink's rapture gladden'd the morn,
  And the whippoorwills charm'd their rest.

### II

So in these upland fields
  At the valley's eastern bound
Time her slow fruitage yields.
  Priest Kellogg, servant of God and man, long crown'd
With love and honor, in yon God's acre sleeps.

The colonies are states, united, strong
In hope and promise that to youth belong.
From Snipsic still the river leaps
Unhinder'd, pure, down the cool forest glen.
Said men of Vernon, "Now why
Need the hurrying waters rush idly by?
Let them learn our Yankee rule: 'tis when
We have done our stent we are free to play.
Let our wild Hockanum do as we!"
They yoked him to mill-wheels, made the spring flood stay
To help in August drought.
He ground their flour, saw'd the forest away;
Then to finer tasks they put him to school,
With cotton and paper, silk and wool;
And he toil'd for all in season and out,
Till more helpers were needed, and helpers came
From the crowded lands of ancient fame,
From Europe over the sea.
And the village along the busy stream
Throve and grew, and began to dream
Of larger things to be.

## III

Ah, brethren of the Southland,
Whose fathers, with our own,
'Stablisht the dear Republic,
How keen hath our quarrel grown!
Again with childish wondering eyes
I see the throng'd street on that July day,
The waiting coaches, music and banners gay,
And women weeping, while hoarse cheers arise.
Now they are gone, first comers to the call,
"Three hundred thousand more!" From all
War ever takes the best. Cheerily they fare
On toward Potomac's war-swept banks—
Young fathers, from the last kiss of wife and child,
And boys too young to know love's wild
Deep ecstacy and woe, whose foreheads wear
The mother's chrism of farewell prayer.
Tho' stern forced march, Antietam's field,

And Marye's Heights, and Gettysburg await them,
And many shall return no more,
Or come in coffined honor, or maimed sore,
Their high design and inborn constancy
And valorous hope elate them.
Now each new May let the nation's thanks
In fragrant bloom fresh wreaths of honor plait them,
By whose blood and agony
Thy nation's wound was heal'd.

## IV

Peace once more, and the fruitful arts of peace!
There know thy strength, my country, there
Let thy pent youthful vigor dare—
Not in fleets nor tropic empire—seek release,
Treading new pathways to a nation's glory,
Which yet are old as Athens. And Vernon's story
Shall be true type thereof and prophecy.
Here patience, industry, inventive skill
Win nature's power to do man's will
To free mankind and magnify.
And who so buildeth honest work,
Taking no private gain
From other's loss or pain,
He builds for all time, tho' his deed
Aim but to fill the daily need
For food and shelter; and no subtle murk
Of social theory can befog his mind
Whose hands have earn'd a home.
Here Irish wit and German thrift,
Slavic passion, Italian courtesy,
And many an Old World people's special gift,
With plain New England common-sense combined,
Shall shape a people sane and strong,
Full-rounded, like St. Peter's dome,
Based on the old, unto new heights ascending.
Here, too, the ancient Mother Church doth find
Her wilful daughters, tho' estranged long,
Hands of ungruding welcome now extending,
While the firm Hebrew faith still proves its power,

Eldest, yet ever young, no longer forced to cower.
Alike one Father-God they teach,
And that man liveth not by bread alone.
For every word divine he must out-reach
In searching unafraid. Science and art
Also are worship, and no lesser part
Of our true native heaven-descended speech.
And our democracy means equal right
For all to climb the spirit's mountain height.
Here therefore shall stand open wide
All paths to ampler life—the treasured lore
Of ages, and the swelling tide
Of incorruptible treasures new from every shore.
The hand shall here learn delicate power, the voice
Grow musical, and homes be beautified
With gardens, modest or stately, that all eyes rejoice.
And for that sweet forest glen,
Long lost 'neath streets and factories,
Art shall discern a way to compensate—
With shapely bridge and planted bank and park again
Make beautiful, with tamer harmonies,
But noble still, what now is desolate—
In civic grace the lovely valley recreate.

V

Thou little commonwealth, our home, our pride,
A fairer down draws nigh.
The ancient Dark is fading; a light breeze
Wafts dewy odors, and the trees
Their leafy answer softly make.
Pellucid gold drifts up the morning sky,
Song-sparrow and bluebird are awake,
Soon the full chorus will begin,
Bathing the world in music, telling of love,
Then day shall enter in,
With light, with beauty, add with joy, whereof
The humblest with the highest shall partake.

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## THE ROCKVILLE HOUSE

The original Rockville House was built by William T. Cogswell, builder and contractor, in the year 1843, on the site of the present hotel. Asaph McKinney, of Ellington, a genial man who for a time had had charge of the stage coach between Springfield and Norwich, moved in as landlord before the house was actually finished, and stayed for three and a half years, paying a yearly rental of $200. A dignified dedication took place in the month of January, 1844. The proprietors were Hubbard Kellogg and Samuel Rose, the keeper of the first village post office.

FIRST PUBLIC HOUSE IN ROCKVILLE

On October 5, 1847, McKinney was succeeded by Francis Keeney, who paid the same amount of rent. In the spring of 1848 he beautified the surroundings by setting out a row of elm trees south of the house, since known as The Terrace. He also helped grade Central and Talcott parks. The terrace was not then walled up, and the land belonging to the hotel reached as far as Cottage and School streets. The old elm in front of the hotel, supposed to be 100 years old, was taken down in 1920.

The prices in Keeney's time were 25 cents for a night's lodging and 25 cents for each meal. Is it any wonder that the House was uncomfortably crowded with guests? We learn that as many as eight men, strangers to each other, were sometimes compelled to occupy the four beds in one room on the second floor. Remember that was the day of the stage coaches to Woodstock, Stafford, Springfield, Broad Brook and Hartford!

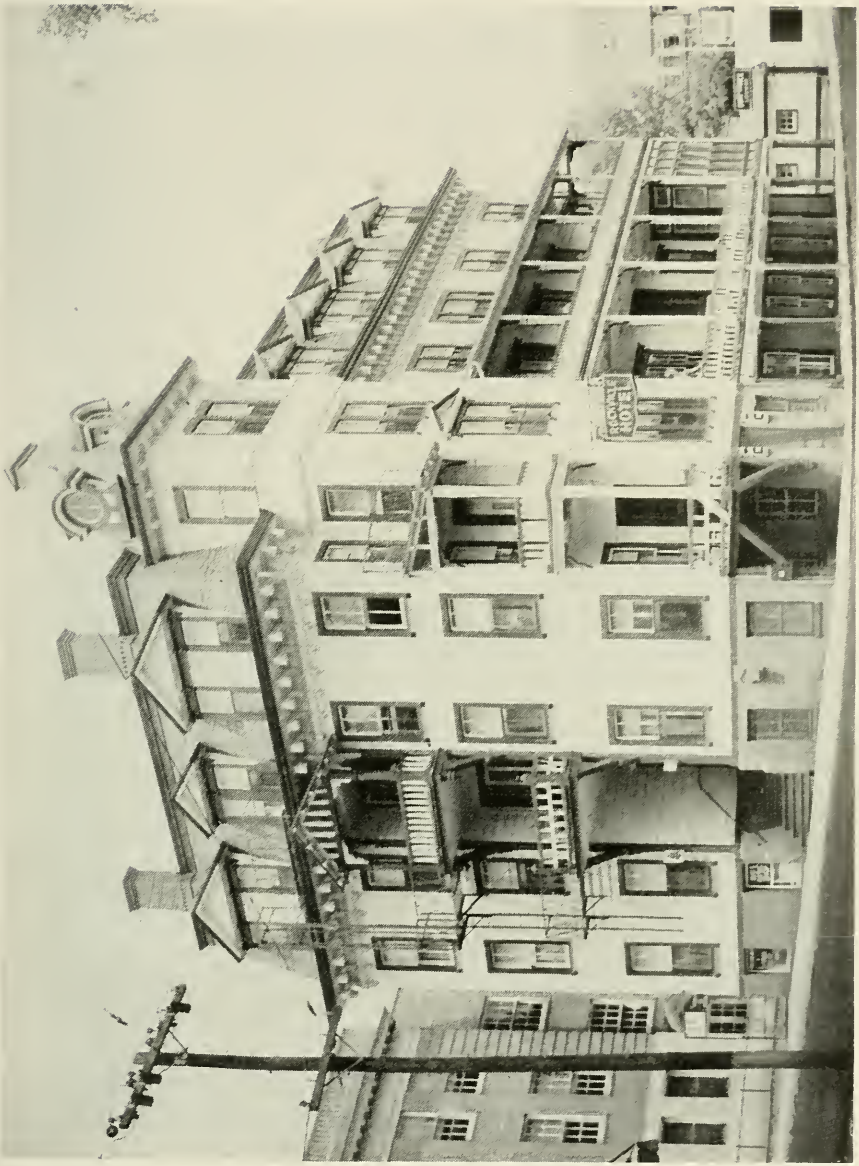
The building was moved a few rods north, rented for a few years, then bought by Benezet H. Bill, Esq., and occupied as his residence and office. In the basement of this house the popular fire engine called "The Fire King" was kept.

In 1851 it was decided to build a new and commodious hotel on the site of the old one, which was moved to Ellington and became known as Ellington Inn. To carry out the larger plans a new company was formed consisting of Phineas Talcott, Allen Hammond, Nelson Kingsbury, Alonzo Bailey, Aaron Kellogg, Allen Kellogg and Major Nathaniel E. Kellogg. Elisha Pember, who lived where the Eckhardt home now stands on West Road, and had had some experience as a hotel keeper in Ellington, was engaged for the Rockville House, but in the year 1858 George Kellogg bought the property and sold it to Francis Keeney for $6,095.

There was a clause in the deed of the property which stated that in case of the keeping to sell or manufacture alcoholic or malt liquors, the property would be forfeited to the Rock Manufacturing Company, which at that time, with George Kellogg at the head, was the controlling power in the village. Each landlord insisted that a public house could not be profitably sustained without an open bar.

Francis Keeney kept the hotel for seventeen years. He was peculiarly fitted by nature for the position—cordial and accommodating. He had a keen sense of humor and a wonderful memory. In conjunction with the hotel he carried on a farm in Ellington. The hotel became known as the Keeney House, and the host and hostess were affectionately called Father Keeney and Mother Keeney.

Town meetings were held in the Conference Room of the Vernon Congregational Church until 1856, but the voting privileges were transferred to Rockville in 1865, and the polling place was the Rockville House. The large dining room became the Town Hall, and played a prominent part in the history of the town. It has been remarked that not too much emphasis was




THE ROCKVILLE HOUSE

placed on the secrecy of the ballot in that period. The hall was used by several religious organizations for church services in times of emergency, and for many social activities. A large livery stable in the rear provided public transportation services, and when the men left for the Front during the war of the Rebellion, the Rockville House was their headquarters.

The House became very popular, especially during the 60's. The goods made by the mills were sold through commission merchants in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston, and they came twice a year to decide upon the styles of manufacture, often bringing their families with them. Many men and women of national fame also came to the Keeney House: Frederick Douglas, Wendell Phillips, Mrs. Livermore, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. And certainly the dinners were toothsome. "The Daily Times" of Hartford, on Thursday, October 19, 1876, chuckled over a feast enjoyed there: "The dinner at the Rockville House consisted of roast turkey, roast pig, cold ham, mutton, and a great variety of other attractive edibles, garnished with sweet potatoes, pies, cranberry sauce, hot coffee, cider, and other good things."

In April, 1876, Francis Keeney sold the property to Colonel Lay and Claude Harvey, both of Stafford, who conducted it successfully for several years. An addition was built and the property remodeled. It was then sold to a syndicate consisting of George M. Paulk, Cyrus Winchell, Joseph C. Hammond and Crossley Fitton. The business was later sold after landlords James Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Murdock McPherson and John J. Kelleher to Mr. and Mrs. Chapdelaine.

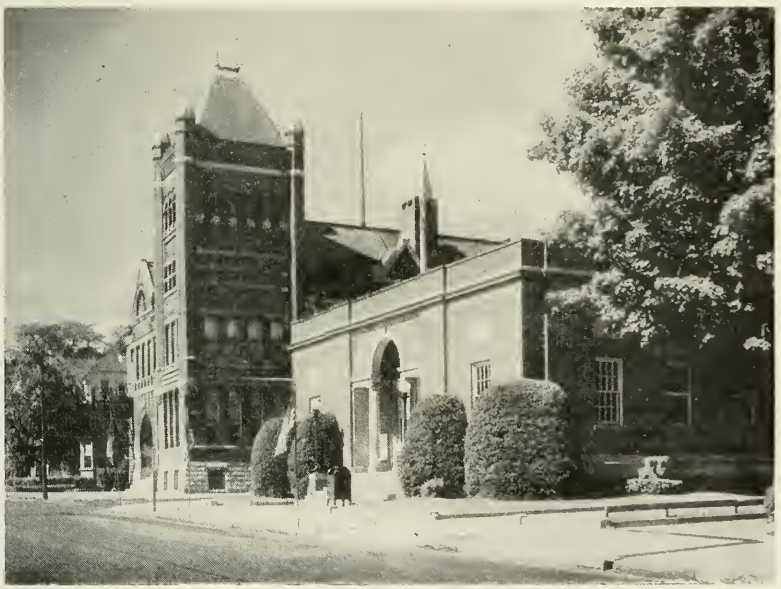
In 1879 the building proved to be inadequate. Ten rooms were added by a Walter Andrews of Vernon, but in 1882, architect S. W. Lincoln of Hartford, drew up plans for a grand enlargement, and George Arnold & Son took the contract and remodeled the hotel to its present appearance.

The Journal Reporter on April 15, 1882, states: We have been shown plans drawn by Lincoln, the architect, for the addition to be built to the Rockville House this Spring or the coming Summer. An addition of 16 feet will be put on in front, giving a ladies' parlor, which has been much needed for some time. A Mansard roof and a tower built on one corner of the building, will give an imposing appearance. The addition to the building will provide some 20 new rooms, which increasing business demands. Piazzas will run around the house at each story.

An elegant new dining room was opened to the public on Sunday, June 15, 1890.

The Chapdelaines came to Rockville in 1918, operated the hotel successfully until January 1, 1935, when they leased it to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, of New York, for a period of one year. On January 1, 1936, Mrs. Ellen Cosgrove Chapdelaine again assumed the business for one year, then Charles Kokerda, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, leased the property from Mrs. Chapdelaine for a period of five years. Then three cousins of Mrs. Chapdelaine—Bridie Gorman Finley, Delia Martin Steppe and Mary Ellen Plant leased the property from the estate of Mrs. Chapdelaine (deceased) for a period of five years. Subsequently, in October, 1948, the property consisting of land, building, furniture and fixtures was sold to Robert Rivkin, of Hartford, Connecticut, for the sum of $50,000.

Thus for one hundred and eleven years the Rockville House has served the changing public.



ROCKVILLE POST OFFICE

## THE POST OFFICE IN ROCKVILLE

Mail service was meager for a number of years, one mail only coming to Rockville and one going out each day. It was carried to Vernon Depot on the 9:30 a.m. stage, and brought to Rockville on the 3:30 p.m. stage. All the Rockville, Vernon Center, Tolland, and Ellington mail did not fill that mail bag. The stage driver paused at the Vernon Center post office while the mail was sorted.

There was no post office in Rockville until 1842. It was not easy to get an office established in a new place. A few local objectors informed Washington authorities there was no need of an office in a village where they had mail only once every day. Others there were who claimed an office would be an unnecessary government expense, but a petition and a bond attached with the names of local men of good credit promising to pay Washington any loss incurred for having the office, succeeded, and on the 25th of May, 1842, the post office was established, and the first postmaster, Samuel P. Rose, appointed by the Postmaster General. George Talcott acted as clerk. The post office was kept in the store of Messrs. Rose and McLean, near the Memorial Building. It was the only store in Rockville at that time.

In 1845 James Stewart became postmaster. He was a tailor, and kept the post office in his shop on the corner of West Main Street and New England Avenue. He cultivated his memory, and with a shrewd twinkle he promptly answered "yes" or "no" to anyone inquiring for a letter. He had the addresses of all letters in the post office locked in the secret vault of his memory.

Charles W McLean was appointed May 4, 1849, and Edward P. Allen June 3, 1853. William T. Cogswell kept the office from July, 1857, to April, 1861, in his drug store; Andrew W. Tracy assumed the responsibility on April 22, 1861, in what is now Rockville Hotel barn, and was followed by Harlan C. Parker on February 20, 1865, who was reappointed on March 11, 1865, when the office became "presidential." For a long time the office was located in Prescott Block and the Citizens' Block.

George N. Brigham was appointed postmaster July 23, 1866, and remained in office for a period of twenty years. As a soldier, government official, and private citizen he was highly esteemed. When he retired from his duties in 1886 the citizens gave him a testimonial.

Business grew with the population. A local paper dated Friday, May 17, 1872, stated—"Our enterprising postmaster Brigham has added 200 delivery boxes to the Rockville Post Office. The total is now 712. Business done—about 1000 weekly newspapers are distributed, and the number of letters received daily is about 750, and the number sent off is 725."

Wilbur B. Foster received the appointment in July, 1886, and George W. Randall succeeded him in July, 1890.

A new post office was opened to the public for the first time on Tuesday, 1st of July, 1899. It stood at the west corner of the new Citizen's Block and measured 17½ feet x 40 feet. The office was fitted up handsomely, costing Messrs. Prescott and Keeney about $600.

In December of 1895, F. A. O'Brien, of Worcester, Massachusetts, Post Office Inspector, visited Rockville, and recommended to the government free delivery system. Business for that year amounted to $10,521.35, $521.35 above the amount required for free delivery system.

So Free Postal Delivery went into effect on April 1, 1896. The three letter carriers, George E. Dickinson, James Kehoe and Charles H. Laubscher, chosen from fifty-one applicants taking examination, started out from the office at 8:20 a.m. to cover their routes. They were the center of attraction wearing their bright new uniforms, though they were a little disappointed, for their grey caps had not arrived that day and they had to wear black ones. The numbering of houses was speedily accomplished by Lewis M. Jones, under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Works, at the expense of property owners and without cost to the city.

The Postal Savings Bank opened on July 31, 1911, offering two per cent interest on deposits, with the big security of the United States for repayment.

In 1913 the Parcel Post was established with great success. The incoming parcels delivered during the first week were 290, the outgoing parcels totaled 235. Mrs. Paul Seigfried had the honor of mailing the first package here on the day of its inauguration throughout the country.

There were two deliveries of mail a day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The following regulations were the order of the day: "A carrier is allowed only a half minute at each door. If no one appears in answer to a ring at the door bell, the carrier must go on to the next house, and all such letters not

delivered will be returned to the office, to be taken out on the next trip. A carrier is not allowed to make change for parties desiring letters to be mailed, and must not sell stamps, although he will take all letters that bear stamps and are therefore ready for mailing."

The movement looking to a Federal Building for Rockville originated in the Rockville Business Men's organization. A resolution calling upon Congressman E. Stevens Henry to use his influence brought results. Appropriations for the project were secured, the first one in 1911 to cover the cost of the site selected, $19,699. It was Jacob Yost's property at the corner of Park and School Streets.

The land was owned originally by the Rock Manufacturing Company, the pioneer wool mill, and sold to Rev. Ansel Nash, minister of the First Congregational Church, who built the house which afterward adorned the site. He sold the house to "Uncle" George Kellogg, Ralph Talcott, Phineas Talcott, an early trial justice of the Town, and Halsey Fuller, who afterwards sold it to the Rock Company. The Company used it for some time as a boarding house. Dr. Elmer L. Styles bought the property from the Rock Company in 1881 and sold it to Jacob Yost in 1884.

The contract for the building was awarded to the Westchester Engineering Company, of White Plains, New York, and the construction took a year. It is a model building in every respect, and cost $52,000.

The building has a frontage of 54 feet on Park and extends back 78 feet on School Street. It is constructed of Indiana limestone and tapestry brick, with a stone water table and cornice. There are granite steps leading up to the building, and limestone posts. On each buttress is a lamp standard where lamps will be placed. Shrubbery adds to the beauty and effectiveness of the building. On entering, one first goes through a loggia, which leads to a large vestibule, and this in turn leads to a spacious public lobby.

The cornerstone was laid in the afternoon of Saturday, July 14, 1917, with an impressive exercise by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons, Connecticut. The full Masonic ceremony for such occasions was exemplified, and 175 Masonic members were in line.

Postmaster George Forster and the official family moved into the new post office on Friday, May 31, 1918.

George Forster remained as Postmaster until 1924, when George Dickinson was appointed to that office. Mr. Dickinson served until 1932, when George Forster was re-appointed by President Roosevelt. In this, his second term, he served until 1941 when Saul Peizer became postmaster. Edward J. Connors, the present postmaster who has graciously supplied us with information, received his appointment in 1947.

Postal receipts for the year ending December 31, 1952, were $87,588.00. Office complement consists of Postmaster, Assistant Postmaster, Superintendent of Mails, six clerks, nine carriers, regulars and substitutes, four rural carriers and two custodial employees. Rural carriers travel a total of 165.5 miles each day and deliver matter to the following towns: Vernon, Ellington, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Coventry and Bolton.

On July 1, 1952, the post office authorized a government vehicle for the delivery and use of the Rockville Post Office. The Rockville office serves approximately 23,000 individuals.

On October 1, 1953, the department authorized a mounted city delivery route, giving residents now on rural routes nearest Rockville a modified city delivery service by vehicle.

OLD CITY HOSPITAL

## ROCKVILLE CITY HOSPITAL

To William Henry Prescott belongs the honor of starting the enterprise by which the establishment of a City Hospital was assured. The tender thought was prompted by his own illness in the latter part of 1907 and the early part of 1908. On January 20, 1908, Mr. Prescott turned over to a few trustees the sum of $50,000, to be known as the William Henry Prescott Fund, and to serve as a nucleus for the amount necessary for such a worthy institution.

Mr. Prescott's family were also much interested in this proposal, and arranged for the purchase of the Gaynor place on Prospect Street, which they deeded to the trustees. This deed constituted a gift from Mrs. Prescott, her son, Francis Keeney Prescott and her daughter, Mrs. Eliza Prescott Childs, Holyoke, Massachusetts. Hon. E. Stevens Henry and Robert Maxwell also endowed the hospital generously, and a wooded tract adjoining the hospital on the north, known as the Rock lot, was given by Frederick Swindells. The appointed trustees were Francis T. Maxwell, Arthur T. Bissell, Miss J. Alice Maxwell, A. N. Belding and Thomas W. Sykes.

Another site was generously offered by ex-congressman E. Stevens Henry, a ten-acre plot on the Vernon Avenue end of High Street, but the question whether to wait for the building of a permanent hospital or to proceed immediately resulted in the choice of the Gaynor place. It was decided to renovate the Prescott house, which then was eighty years old, and use it as a temporary hospital.

A popular campaign for funds to augment the noble gift of the Prescotts was launched on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1920, under the enthusiastic leadership of Rev. Percy E. Thomas, then pastor of Union Congregational Church, and the splendid effort raised the magnificent sum of $51,182.54.

The hospital was opened on Monday, October 31, 1921. For twenty-four years it rendered splendid service, but its equipment became inadequate in a growing population, and in the year 1945 the magnificent Maxwell property on Union Street "Kellogg Lawn," home of William and Miss J. Alice Maxwell, scarcely 100 feet from the busy city street, was converted into a hospital.

The Rockville City Hospital opened its doors for public inspection from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, October 29, 1945, to give an opportunity to all to see what a beautiful and efficiently equipped

hospital the City now has. The hospital, with Mrs. Emma B. Smith as Superintendent, opened for patients on Monday the 30th. Here is the latest in equipment and the surroundings are wonderful.

The task of converting the former Maxwell mansion into a hospital under war-time restrictions and shortages was difficult. The trustees in charge of the work were George Arnold, Chairman of the Board; Lebbeus F. Bissell, Frederick N. Belding, Francis E. Hardenbergh, Donald C. Fisk, and Claude A. Mills.

A total of 2,210 people signed the register that day at the office entering at Union Street. The office is at the left, with the elevator at the right. A portrait of William H. Prescott hangs in this room.

Turning to the left one finds several rooms on the corridor which ends at the east end of the building in the sun room. Chairs, beautiful and comfortable, attract attention. This entire room was furnished by the generosity of the American Dyeing Corporation.

Opposite the entrance hall is the staff room and next to it the very beautiful office of the Superintendent. At the west end is the X-ray room, the laboratory and the emergency room, next to

NEW CITY HOSPITAL

the ambulance entrance. On the other side of the corridor are the kitchen, nurses' dining room and employees' dining room.

On the marble staircase leading to the second floor are two plaques, which formerly stood on the walls of the original Hospital on Prospect Street, now the Bamforth Apartments:

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED IN COMMEMORATION OF THE PRESENTATION OF $10,000 BY THE UNITED GERMAN SOCIETIES OF ROCKVILLE, CONN., 1936

FREE BED DONATED BY SABRA TRUMBULL CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, PROJECT COMPLETED, 1940

On the second floor are several single rooms, as well as rooms with more than one bed. On the north side is the large operating room, with an auxiliary system of lighting overhead in emergency. There is also a smaller operating room for minor operations.

The third floor contains a model nursery, maternity rooms and delivery rooms.

In all the hospital there are 65 beds with from one to five beds in a room. No room has more than five beds. The Hospital Auxiliary's rooms are in the garage—attractive and designed for accomplishing real work. There is linoleum on the floors, and the furniture is maple. Here the women make dressings for the hospital and do other valuable work.

The grounds have several terraces, a swimming pool, and a rock garden. The community is exceedingly fortunate to have such a hospital.

## THE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Rockville City Hospital Auxiliary celebrated its tenth anniversary by presenting the institution with a croup tent.

Mrs. Margaret Mantak, president of the auxiliary, informs us that the group has bought wheel chairs, purchased oxygen tents, had the men's surgical ward and the first floor redecorated. It has purchased auxiliary lights, one of them being for the emergency room. Christmas gifts included surgical sponges, rubber sheets, double wraps for sterilizing, etc.

The auxiliary now has 168 members. The major project of the past year was to have the children's ward completely renovated

and redecorated. The carriage house was redecorated, and a sewing machine and refrigerator were purchased. These projects were financed with funds received from the Cinderella Quiz program and food sale.

The auxiliary contributed to the Rockville Public Health Nursing Association, American Red Cross, Heart Fund and Polio Drives. The social committee purchased flowers and gifts to carry cheer to all patients. There are 62 charter members.

During its ten years of existence, the Auxiliary has raised and spent over $11,000 for the benefit of the hospital. Mrs. Luther White served as president for four years and as general chairman of work for eight years. Mrs. Paul Lehmann was president for four years, and she in turn was succeeded by Mrs. Margaret Mantak, now president.

The Auxiliary is affiliated with the Connecticut Association of Hospital auxiliaries.

## ROCKVILLE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING ASSOCIATION

The Cornelia Circle organized in 1896 at the home of Mrs. W. H. Sill, on Davis Avenue, to be helpful to mothers, exemplified the best virtues of the ancient Roman Matron when driven by a crusader's zeal they enthusiastically began to carry forward the idea of a visiting nurse association. There was no hospital in the town or city, so cases of extreme emergencies had to be cared for at Hartford hospitals. At that time, there were fewer than 200 visiting nurse associations in the country.

The Circle voted to hold a mass meeting to interest as many of the citizens as possibe in forming a Visiting Nurse Association. Press notices and church announcements urged people to a meeting to be held in the Superior Court Room, Memorial Building, on Thursday, January 23, 1913. Miss Martha Wilkinson, superintendent of the Nursing Association in Hartford, spoke. The large and enthusiastic meeting promptly effected an organization. Papers circulated solicited $1.00 memberships and $179 was subscribed. On the motion of Attorney Dennis J. McCarthy, a vote was taken to get the sentiment, and the new organization was chartered. Mr. Charles Phelps, who always had a good way with words, presided, and the following officers were appointed: President, Charles Phelps; Vice-Presidents, Francis J. Regan, Mrs. F. T. Maxwell, George Arnold, Jr.; Secretary, Mrs. D. J. McCarthy; Treasurer, Morris Kemnitzer.

There was a prompt and generous response of the people and over $1300 was raised. The executive committee of the Association engaged a nurse, Miss Jennie Allan Smith, of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, who began work immediately. Her report for the first month showed 68 professional calls and 120 social calls. She filled the position with intelligence and efficiency.

The organization decided upon fees of five cents to fifty cents per visit, depending upon the ability of the patient to pay. This, of course, did not cover expenses. To raise funds, subscriptions of one dollar or more were solicited. All contributors became associate members of the organization. The total collected in the first two months was $1,463.40.

The first room for the visiting nurse office was in an Elm Street building, now occupied by Dr. John E. Flaherty. The nurse at first wore no special uniform. People knew her by the nurse's bag, but even at the end of the first year Miss Smith was well established and extremely busy. She reported a total of 2,494 calls.

The growing desire for the services of the visiting nurse brought with it the appeal for some kind of transportation. During the fall of 1914, 796 visits were made, and even though the visits were grouped according to districts, the nurse must have covered about 50 miles a week on foot.

Finally something was done about the situation after Miss McCarthy was called out late on a winter day. To reach the case she had to walk from the tracks on West Street to Vernon Center and back in the chilling cold. The Association then decided to hire a horse and buggy which was at the nurse's disposal every morning.

By the end of the second year, the Rockville Visiting Nurse Association was a well-known community group. The financial situation improved. Stray gifts helped and an emergency fund was started.

The nurse was occupied with welfare work in addition to her regular duties. Illness and poverty went hand in hand. The Thimble Club under the direction of Mrs. F. T. Maxwell formed a group to furnish a nurse's supply closet, and churches and other organizations helped.

The purpose of the Rockville Public Health Nursing Association is to care for the sick in their homes, to prevent illness through immunizations and health teaching and to bring health care to individuals, to families and to the community.

Although bedside care still remains one of the very important aspects of Organization program, more and more of the nurses' time is spent in health education. As a result of constant teaching, more mothers recognize the need for medical supervision of infants and pre-school children and more and more parents are taking their children to family physicians or pediatricians. The Medical Well-Child Conferences are therefore no longer an essential part of the Public Health Nursing program and were discontinued in 1947. So also were the Pre-School Round-Ups. Children are now being examined by their own doctors before entering school. This is a much more meaningful and satisfactory arrangement. Immunization clinics continue. Even there, changes in procedure have been noted. Schick tests have been discontinued and replaced by the "booster" injection against diphtheria, whooping-cough and tetanus. Pertussis or whooping-cough toxoid was added to the combination given at the clinics in 1947. Dental Hygiene Clinics were offered in 1944 and 1945 for pre-school children twice a year for cleaning teeth. It was not until 1948 and 1949 that concerted effort on the part of many who formed a Dental Health Committee secured a demonstration by the United States Public Health Service, to apply Sodium Fluoride to the teeth of school children. As a result of this demonstration, a dental hygienist was employed to work full time in the Town of Vernon schools in 1950 and a dental program was set up in the first three grades of the Ellington schools. A poster contest in the Town of Vernon schools in 1951 stimulated the interest of children in dental hygiene.

The Rockville Public Health Nursing Association also carries on a tuberculosis program. Case finding for tuberculosis continues although the methods vary a little over the years. From 1943 through 1945 the High School juniors were given the tuberculin test and those having positive readings were followed with X rays. From 1948 on, X-ray pictures have been taken of all members of the Junior Class, plus faculty, cafeteria workers and maintenance men. The Mobile X-ray Unit first took X rays of some industrial workers but it was not until 1947 and again in 1951 that the unit was available to the whole community for X rays of the adult population. Positive findings proved to be very small.

Crippled Children since 1945 have been able to receive physical therapy locally. A clinic was established at the Rockville City Hospital which is staffed by the State Department of Health clinic and is held once a week.

The Rockville Public Health nurses taught Red Cross Home Nursing and First Aid courses to members of the community in 1951. In 1952 they joined their efforts along with the medical profession in case finding for diabetes during Diabetes Detection Week. This was repeated in 1953.

The forerunner of the Baby-Sitter Course was given in 1944 to the Vernon 4-H Club under the name of "Child Care." It was not until 1952 that a course was outlined and presented for Baby Sitters. This was repeated in 1953.

A scholarship fund was established in 1950 and is given yearly to a girl who wishes to enter a training school for nurses.

It was in 1947 that a fourth nurse was added to the staff of the Rockville Public Health Nursing Association. In 1948 full time service was offered to Ellington. Although there have been many changes in staff since then, the present number is still four: Ruth E. Hoyt, Helen M. Regan, Mary P. Dussinger, Marie Girelli, Ruth Casello, Office Secretary.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

The Rockville Chapter of the American Red Cross was organized in October, 1916, with 425 members. Headquarters were established in a vacant store in the Orcutt Block, the use of which was kindly given by Mrs. W. H. Orcutt. The making of surgical dressings was started at the home of Miss J. Alice Maxwell. Preparations were begun at once for the war fund campaign of June 18th and 25th with Mr. L. H. Talcott as chairman of the drive. The Rockville Chapter was allotted a quota of $15,000. The amount raised was $26,711.

The following branches and auxiliaries were soon formed, giving the chapter jurisdiction over the northern towns in Tolland County, with a population of 21,000 people.

| | |
|---|---|
| Somersville auxiliary | organized July 19, 1917 |
| Tolland auxiliary | " July 21, 1917 |
| Ellington auxiliary | " July 27, 1917 |
| So. Coventry branch | " Aug. 13, 1917 |
| Talcottville-Vernon auxiliary | " Sept. 14, 1917 |
| Coventry auxiliary | " Sept. 14, 1917 |
| Somers auxiliary | " Sept. 14, 1917 |

The membership of the chapter increased rapidly, most of the names being secured during the War Fund Campaign in June, 1917, and the two Christmas Roll Calls of December, 1917 and 1918.

In September, 1917, there was an opportunity to rent the store occupied by the chapter during the summer, and Mrs. Wm. H. Prescott kindly offered rooms in the Prescott Block which were gladly accepted. Knitted articles were still kept in the Orcutt Block and shipped from there, but from this time the making of surgical dressings, the cutting of garments, the receiving and giving out of material, and all other packing and shipping was done in and from the Prescott Block.

In December, 1917, more money was needed to carry on the work of the chapter and an envelope collection was conducted under the chairmanship of Mrs. Thomas W. Sykes, which, together with the amount raised during the Roll Call in the same month, carried the work along till the following June, when the second War Fund drive was conducted, Rev. Edward T. Mathison being chairman. This time the Rockville Chapter more than doubled its quota of $20,000, raising $41,471. The Red Cross thoughtfully named Mrs. Thomas Sykes honorary chairman. She had been an officer of the chapter from its beginning.

In March, 1918, the work had increased to such an extent that more room was badly needed and Prescott Hall was taken over for the making of surgical dressings. During the summer of 1918 dressings were also made in the vestry of the Episcopal Church.

After the signing of the Armistice in November, 1918, the work on the surgical dressings was stopped and then headquarters were changed to the room on the first floor formerly occupied by the Post Office. Here a work-room was established for the making of refugee garments and from that time to February 1, 1919, a great deal of sewing was done.

During the summer of 1917 the chapter with its two branches and six auxiliaries provided 1,169 knitted articles, most of which were for Tolland County boys in different camps of the country. 1,239 pieces of hospital garments, 595 surgical dressings prepared. 131 comfort bags or kits.

In the Annual Report on Membership in 1919 the total reached was 6,529.

Not as active as during the war, good work was carried on through the Home Service department, a class of Home Nursing was opened to the public. In 1923 the sum of $2,000 was sent by the Rockville Chapter for the Red Cross Japanese Relief; in 1924 the Senior Class of the High School conducted the Membership

Drive, and gave $100 for milk for school children; in 1926, $165 was sent for relief in Florida at the time of hurricane; in 1927 $335.72 for Mississippi Flood Relief, and each year $100 was contributed to the milk fund for school children; in 1931 the Chapter cared through the treasury for school children whose eyes, teeth and tonsils needed attention; in 1934 it was reported that 2,638 bottles of milk had been given to the school children during the year; $200 was also donated to cover the cost of X ray for children; in 1936 $3,272 was realized for the flood victims, and the milk fund for children was increased for several years to $300.

In 1938 work was done in connection with the local hurricane—the Red Cross furnished coffee and sandwiches to the men working at the Snipsic Dam during the period; in 1940 the War Relief Drive yielded $2400.

In 1941 necessary arrangements were made for an emergency station, and the purchase of the supplies and equipment for the establishment of a twenty-four-bed emergency hospital. In 1942 the Junior Red Cross was organized. Junior Red Cross included production, consisting of afghans, lap boards, scrap books, etc.; participation in Home Nursing Courses; collection of paper, old clothing, milkweed; victory gardens and farm work.

Mrs. Mildred Connors was the executive secretary from 1943 to 1948 preceded by Truth Paisley.

In three years members of the chapter have put in 2,453½ hours and have made 72,120 dressings. During 1943-1945, the chapter has made and filled 2,384 kit bags for the armed forces and 100 unfilled bags for the Medical Department.

Rockville's quota for the 1945 War Fund was $25,500. The amount reached on September 30 was $30,363.20. At this time surgical dressings, blood bank and nurse recruitment were discontinued by national order. The final visit of the Blood Donor Service was made February 28, 1945. Men and women from Rockville and vicinity have donated nearly 2000 pints of blood.

Mrs. Raymond Spurling succeeded Mrs. Connors, as executive secretary in 1948.

The Water Safety Program was started in 1948 and in 1953 there were enrolled 977 children.

The Red Cross is built on the basic idea of People Helping People.

## TOLLAND COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The story of the development of medicine, sometimes called "the mother of the sciences," in Tolland County has never been written. More than a century and a half ago doctors were obliged to make journeys over the rough and rugged hills of our county, and an acknowledgment of those medical excursions should be preserved. With horse and saddlebags, they rode from patient to patient, carrying along with them genial wisdom and portable drug stores. Few prescriptions were written in those days. Drug stores were few and far between, and most of the drugs, such as were absolutely necessary, were kept in the family stores, and made palatable for easy consumption.

Some have heard of the old doctor's sulky with wheels as high as a man's head, the old straps in lieu of springs, and a big box strapped on behind the seat. Sometimes there was a top to it. Later came the four-wheeled carriage with the seat and body just sufficient for one person. Those vehicles were distinguishable at a long distance, and it was not uncommon for someone of the family of a sick person to be stationed at the door yard gate on approach to watch for his coming on his rounds and engage his services.

In the early times it was not always the graduate of the medical college who followed the profession. Handy men at the business took up the work. Besides this, there was usually some motherly woman in the community whose skill in the care and treatment of diseases in their earlier stages was only second, at least, if indeed it did not equal that of the professional nurse of the present day. The garrets of the old houses were almost complete drugstores as regards roots and herbs, and there was no lack of preparation for emergencies.

At a meeting of the physicians and surgeons of the county of Tolland, convened at Tolland on the 4th day of September, 1792, agreeable to an act of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, incorporating a medical society in the said State, the following gentlemen were present and considered as members:

> Ichabod Warner, David Sutton, Miner Grant, Asa Hamilton, Jeremiah West, Joseph Parker, William Grosvenor, Joseph Kingsbury, Daniel Avery, Ebenezer Hunt, Samuel Willard, Elijah F. Reed, Ruggles Carpenter, Caleb

Merrick, Lewis Collins, Dan Arnold, Simeon Field, and Stephen Preston. Ichabod Warner was chosen chairman and Jeremiah West, clerk.

The first meetings of the Society were held in Tolland and Bolton, and a great effort appears to have been made to secure an attendance of all the members at the meetings. In 1794 it was voted "that it shall be considered very dishonorable for any member not to attend the future meetings." Later on, members were often fined 50 cents and $1.00 for not attending meetings.

They petitioned the legislature to pass a law protecting the medical profession from being compelled to give evidence in court, thereby betraying the confidence reposed in them.

The first code of charges for professional services seems to have been adopted in 1828, when the price for ordinary visits was placed at 25 cents; night visits 50 cents, consultations $1.00, simple fracture of the leg or arm $3.00, extracting a tooth 17 cents.

In 1869 the visiting fee was raised to $1.00; consultation, first visit $2.00, each subsequent visit $1.00; night visits, 10 p.m. to sunrise, $2.00.

George Brown, whose reminiscences the author appreciates, chronicles his knowledge on the subject:

> "In 1840, there were no doctors in Rockville—no doctors, no cemetery. The nearest to Rockville was Dr. Alden Skinner, who lived at Vernon Center, a jolly, good-natured doctor. Years ago when the doctor called on his patient, one of the first things he said was: 'Let me see your tongue, please.' He would next feel of the patient's pulse and take note of its thumps. Then the doctor would say, 'I shall have to bleed you.' He would then proceed to take from his saddlebag a lance large enough to harpoon a whale, call for a bowl and someone to hold it. The bowl was used for holding the blood. The patient would roll up his sleeves and the doctor would tap a vein in the arm. The doctor would watch the patient and let him bleed until he commenced to look white about the gills and until the person who was holding the bowl was in a state bordering on collapse. Then the doctor would shut off the flow of blood, fix up the patient's arm, and then dose him with calomel, which would cause the patient to have a very sore mouth, so that it was impossible for him to say his prayers out loud."

In 1878 Frederick Gilnack and R. H. Goodrich were admitted as members; in 1880 E. K. Leonard and E. P. Flint; T. F. Rockwell in 1883, Fred Walsh, 1885; William C. Haven, W. D. Wilson, both in 1885; and in 1890 E. T. Davis and W. N. Simmons; Dr. Lawler in 1892. In 1895, Dr. F. L. Dickinson addressed the meeting as the oldest living member, and T. F. O'Loughlin was admitted in 1897.

Dr. L. T. Mason is supposed to have been the first homeopath who ever trespassed on the "old school" ground. His office was in the upper story of the Johnson building, where later the harness shop of Mr. Liebe was located. He also carried on the dental business, and his residence was the house next west of the former Union Church parsonage on Union Street. Mr. Mason came here about 1850, and remained until 1870.

From reports of the annual meeting, held at the County Home in Tolland April 21, 1887, we find that the officers were: President, Dr. F. L. Dickinson, Rockville; clerk, Dr. W. H. Clark, Tolland; fellows: Dr. W. N. Clark, of Stafford; to State Society Dr. S. G. Risley of Rockville, Dr. C. F. Sumner of Bolton; alternates, Dr. F. L. Smith of Stafford Springs, Dr. F. Gilnack of Rockville, Dr. E. P. Flint of South Coventry; Censors, Drs. C. F. Sumner, E. P. Flint, F. L. Smith; reporter, Dr. S. G. Risley; delegates to American Medical Association, Dr. S. G. Risley and Dr. W. N. Clark; committee to draft constitution and by-laws for the Tolland County Medical Society—Drs. C. F. Sumner, C. B. Newton, E. K. Leonard and W. H. Clark.

Dr. Alden Skinner, after whom the Sons of Veterans named their camp, was a highly respected Rockville physician who went out as first surgeon of the 25th regiment, and died of pneumonia at Baton Rouge. Doctor Pease was in Rockville 1871-1878. Doctor E. L. Styles practiced in Rockville until 1882. Doctor C. L. Beach came to Rockville in 1881 and remained until 1882. Doctor E. A. Wilson came in 1882. Doctor Carl Crisand in 1883. The regimental surgeon was Dr. Thomas F. Rockwell of Rockville. Major Rockwell represented Company C's station with ability and credit to the regiment in the position of surgeon. The oldest member of the medical profession was Dr. Frederick Gilnack, practicing physician for 45 years in Rockville: he died at his home at 15 Elm Street. He was both a physician and a friend. Born in Germany, September 4, 1844, he came to America when he was 10 years old. He was noted for his quietness, unostentatious goodness, strength,

faith, sunny disposition and sweetness. A visit from him had an exhilarating effect.

The Connecticut State Medical Society is composed of one representative from each county. Dr. John E. Flaherty is the Tolland County councilor. There is also an Inter-County Association and delegates from each county attend meetings.

Officers of the Tolland County Medical Association are:

President, Dr. Francis H. Burke
Vice-President, Dr. Wm. Schneider
Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. Ralph Thayer, Jr.

Meetings are held twice a year at the Old Homestead Inn, Somers. The annual meeting is held on the third Tuesday of April, and the semi-annual meeting on the third Tuesday in October. All doctors in practice in Tolland County are eligible for membership.

TOLLAND COUNTY JAIL

## TOLLAND COUNTY JAIL

The jail buildings for Tolland County, built in 1894, stand at the corner of the road leading to Willimantic and are substantial in construction, convenient in arrangement, and artistic in design, fitted with necessary and modern equipment, sanitary conveniences and heating facilities. The style of architecture is modern classic. The plans were drawn and the work executed under the general supervision of J. H. Clough, architect.

The first jail was erected in 1786, being constructed of logs and very insecure, the prisoners often escaping by burning holes through the walls of wood. This building being found inadequate, another one was built about the year 1810, and stone was substituted for wood. This stood directly south of and near the present County House.

About the year 1824, the county having gradually increased in population, and offenses against the law being more frequent, it was decided to construct a jail which would successfully resist any attempt at escape. The floor was made of large stones, as was the ceiling, and the doors and windows were protected by iron rods. This building was destroyed by fire in September, 1893.

The death penalty has only once been inflicted in one hundred and sixty-four years. George Henry Washington, a transient person of various bloods but mostly Indian was tried at the April term of Court in 1824 for murdering his wife, Marjory Washington (colored) by beating her upon the head with an oak stick. He was convicted and hanged on the first Tuesday in June, 1824, in an open lot on the hill at the north end of the street, and buried near the gallows. His trial was held in the Congregational Church in Tolland, because the old Court House had been demolished and the new structure had not been completed. "Father" Cogswell erected the gallows and made the coffin.

The total acreage of Tolland County Jail property is 110 acres, 85 per cent tillable. Many improvements have been made within recent years. A house of eight rooms, just north of the jail, is now occupied by the assistant deputy jailer, Darrell Stark and his family. The cost was $15,000.

The average number of occupants during the past ten years has been 20; the number of cells for men is 32; for women 5.

Present officers: Paul B. Sweeney, High Sheriff and Jailer; George Schofield, deputy jailer; Darrell Stark, assistant deputy jailer.

The Tolland County Commissioners who direct the work are Francis J. Prichard, of Rockville, Chester R. Worthington, of Somers, and Hubert P. Collins, of Columbia. Mr. George L. Schofield was appointed superintendent in January, 1951.

## TOLLAND COUNTY HOME FOR CHILDREN

The Tolland County Temporary Home for children "deserted, neglected or cruelly treated or dependent" had its beginning in an Andover farmhouse in 1883. Mrs. Virginia Smith and a band of noble women began the institution. In 1887 one thousand dollars was appropriated by the State to the County, and the Commissioners bought the Edwin Bill place in Vernon Center. This property consisted of a large house once used as a hotel, and in March of 1887 the children were moved from Andover to Vernon.

In the year of 1935, Mrs. Harry Conklin Smith unveiled a bronze tablet in memory of her husband at the Temporary Home gymnasium, which was remodelled through the kindness of interested organizations and friends.

The name of Harry Conklin Smith will always be associated with the institution, for he loved the children and the children loved him.

Exercises were held in the School Auditorium of the Tolland County Home on December 12, 1935. Miss Sarah Hammond, teacher of music at the County Home for ten years, presented a fine program by the children. Dr. George Brookes, a personal friend of Harry Conklin Smith, gave the address. Congressman William L. Higgins, introduced by Mr. George Siswick, chairman of the Board of Management, gave the address at the unveiling ceremony. The inscription on the bronze tablet reads:

In Memory of
HARRY CONKLIN SMITH
Whose thought was ever for the children
This building was remodelled for them
Through the gifts of His Friends.

Superintendent and Mrs. Albert S. McClain served the institution with fidelity for many years, until ill health compelled his

TOLLAND COUNTY HOME FOR CHILDREN

retirement. They took over the duties of the home in 1931 and left in 1947. Mrs. Elsie Robb had charge in June, 1954, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Levins, and now Mr. Walter C. Meyer.

## TOLLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Tolland County Agricultural Society dedicated "to the promotion and improvement of agriculture, manufactures and rural economy" became an important organization in the year 1853. The first president was Ephraim Hyde, of Stafford, and the early meetings were held at Tolland Court House. An agricultural fair was held on September 27 and 28, 1854, a hundred years ago, and for many years, the annual event attracted immense crowds of people.

The Fair was held in Tolland only three or four years, when the track built in Rockville by the Tolland County Horse Association was purchased by the Society. It was called Hyde Park, in honor of its president of ten years, Ephraim Hyde.

The Society was reorganized in November of 1897, to be known as the Rockville Fair Association. Walter E. Payne became president. The fiftieth fair was held in 1902. The Midway was a lively feature, with many new attractions—shooting devices, in-

COUNTY HOME SCHOOL

numerable eating tents and stands, the pingpong babies, the electric theater, the Connecticut museum of reptiles, with the celebrated Glastonbury serpent, nine feet long; the Williams Gipsy family of fortune-tellers in a large and finely appointed tent.

The second day of the Fair was Cattle Day. Three hundred head of cattle appeared on the grounds. There were dog races, horse races, and exhibitions in the main hall. The third day was a holiday. Mills, schools and stores were closed. Thousands of people came by train from outside towns. The Fair, held for over 75 years, was discontinued after 1929. St. Bernard's Church Society purchased the land for $8,500 for cemetery purposes.

## THE TOLLAND COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

The Tolland County Art Association was organized under the leadership of Rev. Forrest Musser and several other artists in October, 1946. The Association was founded to stimulate interest and participation in the Fine Arts. A workshop meeting was held each month in the Union Congregational Church and twenty-five (25) charter members showed considerable interest. The Association through the kindness of Miss Edith Peck, Librarian, held their first exhibit in November, 1946. Some fifty pictures were exhibited on a variety of subjects and one thousand visitors signed the guest book during the one week of exhibit.

The Association has continued for the past seven years in sponsoring this annual exhibit and one or more exhibits in neighboring communities. In 1953 there were over eighty members coming from every section of Tolland County. A number of neighboring communities have now established similar Art Associations.

## CEMETERIES

During the first twenty-five years of our history, no movement for establishing a cemetery was made. However, with the increase of population, a number of deaths occurred, and in the year 1847, the present grounds were purchased from David Hale for $398 for seven and a half acres.

No considerable improvement in the grounds was made, as no funds were appropriated, and it became apparent that improvements would have to be limited by the amount of funds derived from the sale of lots, which were offered at the low price of $10 each. And even at that price, they sold slowly. A survey was made by the agents in charge, the main drives laid out, and a cheap enclosure was constructed and a few trees planted along the entrance avenue and the outside fence.

There was no attempt to grade the grounds. Each purchaser of a lot fitted it up as best he could or left it in its native roughness. It was covered with a strong growth of timber, mostly chestnut, unsuitable for ornamental purposes. In the meantime, private taste and funds did improve small portions of the grounds.

The town at its annual meeting in 1866 appointed a committee consisting of E. B. R. James, A. C. Crosby, and Albert Dart and instructed them to purchase additional grounds for cemetery purposes. Accordingly, the committee purchased a lot of land lying next east, and adjoining the present grounds, containing about 9¾ acres, at an expense of $1500, and in 1889 the town voted to purchase a two-acre lot of Richard Jones for $1000. The Cemetery now contains about forty-three acres.

## SIX CEMETERIES

There are six cemeteries in the town of Vernon:

## GROVE HILL CEMETERY

Grove Hill Cemetery, attractive, well kept, with monuments and mausoleums built of marble and granite.

## LUCINA MEMORIAL CHAPEL

In January of 1923, Lucina Memorial Chapel, the gift of E. Stevens Henry in memory of his daughter, Lucina, was opened for

public use. Its architectural character is that of the rural churches in England built by the Normans after their conquest of the English in the latter half of the eleventh century.

The walls of the Chapel are built mainly from stone on land owned by Richard Glessman, laid very carefully, but not too regularly. The gable copings and buttress heads are of cut limestone, rough dressed, except where door and window jambs made smooth work necessary. The chapel floor is of slate, irregularly laid. The roof is also of slate with lead flashings and gutters.

The pews and screens, also the entrance doors are made of oak. The chapel is lighted and heated by electricity, the heating units being placed in recesses below the windows, the lighting fixtures being simple wrought-iron lantern forms, old Norman style, placed on the side walls.

The Lucina Memorial Chapel was erected in accordance with the wishes of the late E. Stevens Henry, who left a bequest of $30,000 for this purpose. It was built by the H. Wales Lines Company.

It seemed peculiarly fitting that the first body to be taken into the new chapel should be that of a member of the Henry family and this is in itself a solemn dedication of the edifice to the use for which it was intended by the donor.

The funeral service was for the sister of the donor, Miss Esther Henry, of Hartford, one of the four surviving sisters of E. Stevens Henry. She died on Saturday, the 13th of January, 1923.

A sundial, designed by architect Walter B. Chambers of New York, was erected in front of the Chapel.

In the Chapel is a bronze tablet—a Relief Medallion of the head of E. Stevens Henry in profile, modelled by a New York artist.

EDWARD STEVENS HENRY
February 10, 1836-October 10, 1921
Treasurer of Connecticut 1889-1893
Mayor of Rockville—1894-1895
Member of Congress—1895-1913

A cemetery employee, Mr. Charles Hill, recalls that all the horses in town were required to move Henry's monument (46 feet in height) to its resting place in the cemetery.

*A Memorial Amphitheater* was erected in 1888, and the oak tree planted nearby in 1847 still flourishes. To this sacred spot on

every Memorial Day, citizens make their pilgrimage to pay tribute to all the soldier dead.

A few years ago the grave of Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg was transferred to the Maxwell family lot in the northeast corner.

The first part of the cemetery was the West End. Here is buried the oldest person; the record on the gravestone reads:

Almira R. Martin
1786-1892
(106 years old)

In the West End, before the cemetery grounds were purchased by the town, appeared two inscriptions on a gravestone:

Christopher
Son of Christopher and Olive
Died March 2, 1839
Aged 5 days

Glorinda
Daughter of Christopher and Olive
Died December 18, 1839
Aged 12 years

These lines are on the grave of Maria M.
wife of Israel Wood
Died March 1, 1876
Aged 52 years

To you, my friends, who now stand by
As you are now, so once was I
As I am now, so must you be
Prepare for death and follow me.

## VERNON CEMETERY

Vernon Cemetery, the pioneer cemetery in the East, is of historic interest. Captain Moses Thrall, first to settle on the tract of land in the vicinity of the ancient cemetery in 1703, is buried here. Tilted stones and unreadable epitaphs make it a forlorn graveyard.

## ELMWOOD CEMETERY

Time-old Elmwood Cemetery at Vernon Center is a triangular plot, terraced, and shaded with pines, hemlocks, and cedars. Here

is the monument dedicated to Ebenezer Kellogg, the pastor of Vernon Church for 55 years. Here, too, is the odd shaped granite obelisk of Lemuel King, of the famous King Tavern.

## SOUTHWEST CEMETERY

The Southwest Cemetery lies below Dobsonville, where are the graves of John Warburton, his wife, and daughter.

On the tombstone of John Warburton appears the following inscription:

The Remains of John Warburton, Age 38
Died August 15th, 1810
O Life, how soon of every bliss forlorn
We start false joys and urge the devious race
To all a prey that cheer our youthful morn
Then sinks untimely and defrauds the chase.

Another slab reads:

Mary Booth, wife of John Warburton
Died at Hartford June 1st, 1811, aged 72 years.

Another slab reads:

Sacred to the memory of
Betsy, daughter of John and Mary Warburton
Who died March 17th, 1797, in the 4th year of her age.
"But virtue dwells beyond the tomb."

## ST. BERNARD'S CEMETERY

St. Bernard's Cemetery dates back to 1855. Additional land has been purchased from time to time, improvements have been made, and its appearance on Tolland Avenue is attractive. Two mausoleums stand in the center of the cemetery, constructed of granite, with ornamental iron entrance doors and marble and bronze interior. Both memorials are almost identical in size and design. One is in memory of Francis Joseph Regan, born February 25, 1861, died October 10, 1919; the other is in memory of George Peter Wendheiser, who died in 1943.

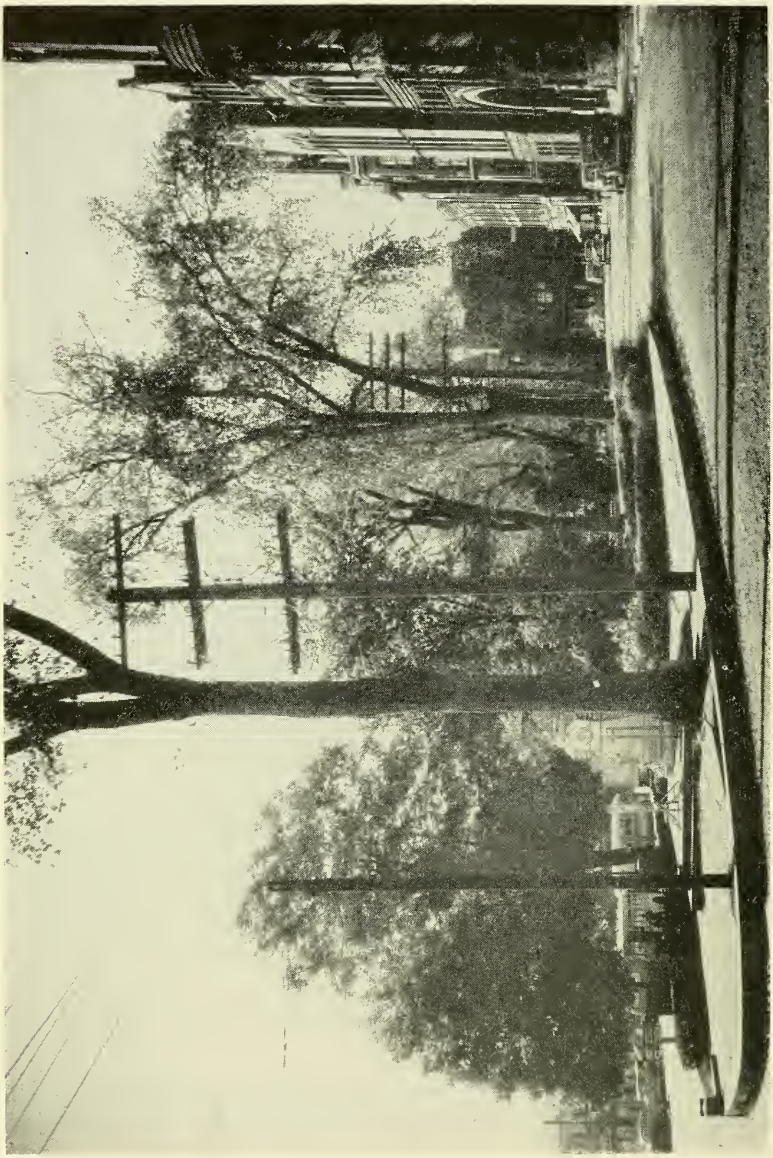
The old Fair Grounds were purchased by Rev. Fr. George Sinnott of St. Bernard's Church in 1929. There were about 26 acres that came into the possession of the church, intended to be used as a reserve cemetery.

Rev. Edward J. Quinn, who became pastor of St. Bernard's Church in 1937, transferred to contractor Fred Romeo about five acres. Recently the city of Rockville bought part of these five acres for a playground for the new East Street School. The church now owns about twenty-one acres for future needs.

The church within the last few years bought from Mr. Romeo that part of the Connecticut Railway cut which extended from Kingsbury Avenue to the end of St. Bernard's Cemetery, making it possible to connect the Fair Grounds with the cemetery, and also giving to the church another entrance both to the cemetery and the Fair Grounds, if the church should so desire.

## MT. HOPE CEMETERY

Mt. Hope Cemetery, Talcottville, is largely maintained by the Talcott family. The land was given by the family in 1867 and dedicated on the Sabbath of June 30, 1867. There were appropriate exercises—a sermon preached in the church by Rev. George A. Oviatt, and singing and prayer on the cemetery grounds. At the left of the entrance to the cemetery stands a memorial to Civil War veterans—a brown stone shaft, with four names inscribed on it.



CENTRAL PARK AND TOWN HALL

## CENTRAL PARK

Rev. Horace Winslow, pastor of the First Congregational Church (1845-1852), was instrumental in beginning the transformation of an unsightly open space formed by the intersection of the three public streets that met just north of the Rock Company's mill into the beautiful central park. It consisted formerly of two little parks, one in front of the First Church, oval in shape with a small fountain, and another in front of the Second Church, with a larger fountain built by the Rock Manufacturing Company. The enthusiasm of this community pastor inspired the people, and the services of men and teams were freely offered for the work. Many trees were planted and a road was constructed between the two small parks.

In 1877, the Park Improvement Committee, consisting of Messrs. Fitton, Orcutt, McCray, Henry, James and Hammond, carried out large plans. After visiting the stone quarries of Monson, they decided to build a wall around the park, with a handsome coping in lengths of six feet, the top to be dressed flat and leveled on the front edge, to stand three feet above the highway. This was accomplished in 1878, in the midst of a time of financial stress, at an expense of about $5,000, and no difficulty was experienced in raising the money. The Town appropriated $1750 for 600 tons of stone shipped from Monson. $3,000 was required.

The little triangular plot of ground was thus surrounded by a substantial stone curbing. The plans and specifications by F. W. Clark, civil engineer, were so carefully made that the joints matched like cabinet work when set up. After more than seventy-four years the stone curbing still stands.

The dainty fountain of cool spring water, offered to the public without money or price or condition, proved a source of refreshment to all who had an occasion to pass that way. At times there was quite a crowd about it, waiting their turns, and it was apparent to all what a good influence such a convenient supply of sweet, wholesome water must be to the thirsty multitude who still relish and believe in the primeval beverage.

Aaron Wolfe, proprietor of the Brooklyn Street livery stable, had the honor of driving to the fountain a fine team of horses promptly at 11 o'clock for the first drink from the tempting bowl. While the horses were slaking their thirst, the owner drew from his

pocketbook a "V" which he politely handed to Mr. J. C. Hammond, Chairman of the Park Committee, for the privilege of giving his horses the first drink. The Brooklyn Mayor was the first to slake his raging thirst, for which he tendered a cool quarter. His commenable example was followed by some twenty others in quick succession, who asked for no trust. William Randall & Son's team took an early drink, for which two dollars was cheerfully tendered. Flocks of lively children hung around the fountain on the opening day, being seized with a most uncommon desire to try the new cups.

The only criticism of the fountain came in the form of a suggestion that its appearance would be much improved esthetically if "the mouths of the lions were stopped, say three or four of them and a full stream allowed to issue forth from the remaining one or two."

COGSWELL FOUNTAIN

## THE GUARDIAN OF THE FOUNTAIN

Here is the story of the Cogswell Fountain in Central Park, which for more than twenty years held a secret as elusive as that of the Sphinx.

In the year of 1881, a certain L. T. Frisbie visited San Francisco, California, where he met Dr. Henry D. Cogswell, who through the offices of dentistry and speculation strolled to fame and fortune in that popular city. Dr. Cogswell never lost an opportunity to express his interest in the temperance cause, and in the course of a friendly conversation offered to erect for Rockville a public drinking fountain of ornamental design. Mr. Frisbie promptly reported the offer to the town officials, stating that the philanthropist, a Tolland County boy, agreed to donate a handsome iron fountain, stipulating that the town furnish a proper site and assume the care of the fountain.

Early in January, 1882, William T. Cogswell received a letter from his cousin offering to give a drinking fountain to the town of Vernon, if it could be accepted upon terms prescribed by the doctor, if not, the gift would be bestowed elsewhere.

Delighted with the prospect, the town officials eagerly called a meeting to consider and act upon the matter on August 25, 1882. J. W. Stickney was chosen moderator, and Benezet H. Bill offered the following resolutions:

"Resolved that the Town accept the ornamental Drinking Fountain generously donated by Dr. H. D. Cogswell of San Francisco to the Town of Vernon, for which the Town hereby expresses its grateful acknowledgments and extends its cordial thanks, trusting that the beneficent influence of the fountain and the humane and benevolent purpose of the donor will be fully realized."

"Resolved that the Town will provide a suitable foundation for and locate such fountain at some point in Rockville in said town where the same will be most convenient and accessible, and will supply the water, plumbing, lights, lampposts, globes for gas or electric lights, and ice in warm weather, necessary for the same, and will hereafter preserve and maintain such fountain and in default of thereof the same shall be forfeited to the donor or his legal representatives."

"Resolved that a committee of five persons be appointed to communicate with Dr. Cogswell and to do all acts necessary to

carry into full effect the terms of these resolutions, and that such sum as may be necessary, not exceeding $500, be appropriated from the treasury of the Town." Resolutions were passed.

With the urgency of a telegram, William T. Cogswell, a cousin of the donor, a veteran carpenter of this town, who made all the coffins and at the same time served as Justice of the Peace, wrote Dr. Cogswell as to the preparations necessary and received a photograph of the designed fountain. This photograph was placed conspicuously in the Rockville post office to give citizens an opportunity of inspection. A detailed plan supplemented the picture: dimensions of the foundation; the step to the platform; the inscription; and most challenging, the statue of the donor of "the Guardian of the Fountain," with modern dress, six and a half feet high, resting on his left foot, presenting a cup of cold water with the right hand and holding a scroll or temperance pledge in the left hand.

By June of the following year, 1883, the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, had completed the White Bronze Fountain, and were ready to ship it to Rockville. A few members of the appointed committee went down to Bridgeport, and when they saw what they thought was a monstrosity, they were flabbergasted. They didn't know what to do. The gift had been accepted by the Town without a ripple of dissension, so they returned home with sealed lips. Finally the Fountain arrived in Rockville. There was no formal dedication, for sentiment had grown into resentment. Many expressed themselves volcanically. They did not like the inscription in honor of a living citizen, they abhorred the statue on top of the monument, not because of the figure on it, but because of the metallic cup of water in one hand and a temperance pledge in the other.

The moral ceiling was low at that time. The controversy on the liquor question in the town was very bitter, and the town meetings provided a frenzied atmosphere when the people voted on the issue of license or no license. In 1881, 476 voted for license, 364 against—a total vote of 840; in 1882, 483 for, 327 against—vote of 810; in 1883, 519 for, 351 against—860; in 1884, 504 against, 466 for—970; in 1885, 729 voted for license, 427 against—1156. And now here was a cup of water for a drink and a temperance pledge to sign!

The blood pressure in 1885 was up to a new all time high for on the morning of the fourth of July of that year citizens raised

their eyebrows as they looked at the Cogswell fountain. The statue of the Guardian of the Fountain had mysteriously disappeared in the night. Wagon tracks were traced to Snipsic Lake where the trail ended. There had been very little rain for some time and Snipsic was very low. The statue was found and several days later was fished out of the mud, given a good scrubbing, and one night returned to the monument. But it again disappeared.

On the Fourth of July, 1908, there was a mammoth Centennial celebration here, and lo, wonder of wonders, the statue reappeared. It stood alongside the Cogswell fountain bearing the label —"I've come back for Old Home Week!" The incident caused more talk and excited more curiosity than any other subject among the thousands of visitors on that memorable occasion.

Years ago news out of Rockville was seldom worth more than a few inches in the Hartford papers, but a Sunday issue of the Courant devoted half a page to the story with heading, "From Pedestal to Poor House—The Fate of the Guardian of the Fountain."

After the week's celebration, it was found that the statue had no visible means of support, so was sent to the Town Farm—the poor house. It was sold for junk in the last World War.

## COGSWELL POLYTECHNICAL COLLEGE

The Cogswell Polytechnical College, Folsom Street, San Francisco, (Robert W. Dodd, A.M. President) is a splendid monument to the generosity of Dr. Henry D. and Mrs. Cogswell.

This school was the first technical school of secondary education west of St. Louis, and, for a number of years, was the sole pioneer in this line. The school was organized on March 19, 1887, and instruction began in the early fall of 1888. The revenue from the endowment left by Dr. and Mrs. Cogswell has been sufficient to operate the school without tuitional cost to its students. The finances of the school are handled by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. This Board has so conducted the affairs of the college that the endowment, which at the time of the opening was worth $750,000 has a value today of more than two million dollars.

Cogswell Polytechnical College is open to high school graduates without tuitional charge and offers two-year intensive courses that prepare for leadership and provide a thorough groundwork in engineering fundamentals and the skilled crafts.

Dr. Cogswell died in the summer of 1910.

William T. Cogswell, a cousin of Dr. Henry D. Cogswell, came from Tolland to Rockville when he was 22 years of age. He was the village oracle, and his accuracy regarding dates was never questioned. He died July 5, 1886, leaving a wife, son and daughter. There are many monuments of his enterprise and executive ability in numerous edifices here and in Hartford.

Living at 30 Davis Avenue, until March 12, 1955, was another cousin, Mrs. Bessie Cogswell Martin, who was highly esteemed in the community.

## TALCOTT PARK

The first menagerie and circus which came to town in 1850 pitched tent on what is now known as Talcott Park. It consisted of one small tent and one ring—few animals, few men, fewer horses and wagons. Later the cows were driven out of the Park and the old watering trough on the corner of Park Place and Elm Street, which attracted many people daily, was closed.

The Park Association did excellent work in beautifying the spot. Mrs. Hudson H. Kellogg, who lived at that time on Park

TALCOTT PARK

Street, assisted. She enlisted men with teams, shovelers and workmen in general were drafted, money was collected, the walks were fixed up, and the whole park became a thing of beauty and a joy.

The City records show that the Park Association gave Talcott Park to the City in September, 1895. Its history dates back to June 17, 1852, when it was purchased in the name of Andrew W. Tracy, trustee, for $2,000. A group subscribed. It was six years after the purchase that the Park Association was formed.

In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, early risers were surprised one morning to see hanging from the yard arm, 50 feet up on the flag pole, an effigy of Jeff Davis. It looked as if Jeff Davis had repented and had decided to hang himself under the Stars and Stripes.

Near the fountain was a tall flagpole, also a bandstand, the general headquarters for speeches and music on the Fourth of July and other holidays. Rockville had a very good band in the 50's. John W. Thayer was the leader, and a growing population enjoyed the music.

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE HARTFORD-CONNECTICUT TRUST COMPANY, ROCKVILLE BRANCH, ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

The Rockville Bank (a State bank) was incorporated by an act of corporation passed at the May session of the General Assembly of 1855, and the certificate was issued July 24, 1855, for the first commercial bank in Rockville. Its first officers were: President, Allen Hammond; Secretary, John N. Stickney; Treasurer, Elliott B. Preston. The directors consisted of: Allen Hammond, Alonzo Bailey, Chauncey Winchell, Lebbeus Bissell, Harvey Kingsbury, Nathaniel Haywood, Ansel Arnold, Allyn Kellogg, and John N. Stickney. Its capital at the start of business was $200,000. Nine years later, 1864, it was organized as a national bank.

Previous to 1890, the bank occupied a small one-storied building which stood on the same site as the present building. During the disatrous fire of April 3, 1888, which destroyed the Second Congregational Church, the south side of the bank building was badly damaged, and it was torn down to make room for the present modern banking house.

On December 16, 1929, the Hartford Connecticut Company, a subsidiary of the Hartford Connecticut Trust Company, volun-

HARTFORD-CONNECTICUT TRUST CO.

tarily acquired a controlling interest in the stock of the Rockville National Bank. At about the same time, the Hartford Connecticut Company also acquired stock of the First National Bank of Rockville which was then subsequently merged with the Rockville National Bank on July 26, 1930. Following the merger of these two banks, legislation was passed in Connecticut permitting operation of branch banks and these two aforementioned banks became the Rockville Branch of the Hartford Connecticut Trust Company on December 26, 1933.

## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Soon after the enactment of the National Banking Act of 1863, the First National Bank of Rockville was organized. At the beginning the Rockville Bank offered the use of its banking house and other facilities, and its officers also served as officals of the First National Bank. The national charter of this bank was dated January 4, 1864, and its original authorized capital was $50,000.

From 1868 until 1930, when it was merged with the Rockville National Bank, the First National Bank occupied quarters under

the Methodist Church on Park Place. On January 23, 1868, George Talcott was elected president, and he served the bank as its chief executive officer for a period of forty-three years. His career in the financial life of the town was characterized by faithfulness and fidelity.

In December, 1924, experienced cracksmen are suspected to have been the instigators of an unsuccessful attempt to blow open the vault and safe of the bank some time on a Sunday evening or early Monday morning. The intended burglary was not discovered until Monday morning when the workmen of the H. Wales Lines Company reported for work. The bank was being remodelled and the safe was moved back into the vestry of the church, where the bank was temporarily located. They were thoroughly acquainted with details and must have been watching the progress of reconstruction. A charge of dynamite was found. A window on the west side of the building had been forced.

SAVINGS BANK OF ROCKVILLE

## THE SAVINGS BANK OF ROCKVILLE

The new building of the Savings Bank of Rockville was erected on Park Street. The plans had been prepared by architect Ernest Flagg, of New York. It stands 58 feet high, is convenient, attractive and modern. It is of the Greek style of architecture and built of Indiana limestone. It is lighted by five large windows on each side, and has a front of attractive design, with a spacious entrance.

The bank officers purchased the Tillotson property on Park Street, April 23, 1913, as the site, opposite the lot of the new post office. By the purchase of the 20 feet adjoining land of H. L. James, March 20, 1914, the bank has a large lot with a frontage of 70 feet and a depth of 165 feet.

The Savings Bank of Rockville has had an interesting history: a continuous growth since its incorporation in the month of September, 1858, when Rockville had a population of not more than 3000.

It is interesting to observe that the first officers elected were all prominent citizens of that day: President, George Kellogg; Vice-President, Dwight Loomis; Secretary and Treasurer, Lebbeus Bissell; directors, Stanley White, George Kellogg, Phineas Talcott, Lebbeus Bissell, W. T. Cogswell, Ansel Arnold, Harvey Kingsbury, Dwight Loomis, Chauncey Winchell, Francis McLean, and Daniel Kimball.

Much of the success has been due to the financial ability and management of Lebbeus Bissell, who held office until his death at 93 years, the long term of forty-five years. One of the leading business men, he erected a building on West Main Street, known in later years as the L. C. King block, located west of the Maxwell Apartments, now owned by the Rockville Hospital. This building housed a dry goods store on the lower floor, and he lived in a tenement over the store. When the bank was organized, it was located in the store of Lebbeus Bissell, and in his charge. The first deposit was made by Elliott Palmer of Vernon, the sum of $175.00. The deposits of the first month amounted to $3569, and the first year to $65,384. It became one of the strongest financial institutions in Eastern Connecticut. The first interest rate was 1½%, paid January 1, 1859.

During the period the Bank was established in Bissell's store, a great sensation was caused in the village by a daring burglary. Not much attention was given to strong bank vaults in those days, and the securities of the bank were kept in a large safe of primitive design, kept in the store. It locked with a key, but in a peculiar manner, and it is supposed that Mr. Bissell was watched for a number of nights before the burglary when he locked the safe. The burglars entered the tenement of Mr. Bissell and secured the key to the safe. They then forced an entrance to the store, unlocked the safe with the key, and secured securities of the value of about $10,000. Fortunately, they were nearly all in bonds, and there was very little cash in the safe.

Pinkerton detectives some time later secured a few of the bonds that were not negotiable.

**Present Officers:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Frank B. Frisbie | President |
| Claude A. Mills | Vice-President |
| Frederick E. Hallcher | Vice-President & Treasurer |
| Charles E. Pressler, Jr | Secretary and Ass't Treasurer |
| Herman W. Usher | Assistant Treasurer |

Present rate of interest 1953 2½%
Present Total Assets: $16,545,218.80

## PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK

A resolution incorporating the People's Savings Bank was introduced in the May session of the General Assembly, 1870, by the following men, none of whom are now living, and all of whom were among the most prominent men who ever resided in Rockville: Cyrus Winchell, John W. Thayer, L. A. Corbin, A. Park Hammond, R. G. Holt, Frederick Walker, George A. Groves, George H. Kingsbury, Chauncey Winchell, Trumbull Newcomb, Joseph Selden, E. S. Henry, A. C. Crosby, William R. Orcutt, Asaph D. McKinney, James F. Preston, Francis Keeney, Robert Patton, Dwight Marcy, Ansel Arnold, S. G. Risley, Julius Rich, George M. Paulk, E. C. Chapman and L. E. Thompson.

Of its founders, the man probably most remembered will be the Hon. E. Stevens Henry, Congressman from the First District for many years, who served as Treasurer of the Bank from its organization until his death on October 10, 1921. It is he who gave to the City of Rockville approximately 25 acres of land at Fox Hill, now known as Henry Park, and $25,000.00 to develop it, which park now is used for recreational purposes by so many, and to the

PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK

Town of Vernon the Henry Building at the corner of Park Street and Park Place, the net income from which is turned over to the Grove Hill Cemetery Committee for their use in caring for the Cemetery, and the Lucina Memorial Chapel in Grove Hill Cemetery.

In the resolution incorporating the Bank, Cyrus Winchell, J. W. Thayer, E. S. Henry and A. Park Hammond were authorized to call the first meeting of the corporators, and this meeting was called for June 23, 1870.

The incorporators met in the Rockville House July 1, 1870, with Francis Keeney as Chairman and E. C. Chapman, the hotel proprietor, as Clerk. The following officers were elected: President, John W. Thayer; Vice-President, Cyrus Winchell; Secretary, E. C. Chapman; and Treasurer, E. Stevens Henry.

The first Treasurer was voted a salary of $200.00, which in

1873 was raised to $300.00, and in 1893 to $500.00, and, in accordance with Mr. Henry's wish, this amount remained the same during the remainder of the time he served as Treasurer, which was until his death in 1921.

During the 83 years of its existence, the Bank has had but six (6) Presidents:

| | |
|---|---|
| John W. Thayer | 1870-1874 |
| George M. Paulk | 1874-1902 |
| William H. Prescott | 1903-1908 |
| E. H. Preston | 1908-1912 |
| John E. Fisk | 1912-1944 |
| Donald C. Fisk | 1944- |

Seven (7) Vice-Presidents:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cyrus Winchell | 1870-1903 |
| E. H. Preston | 1903-1908 |
| John E. Fisk | 1908-1913 |
| F. A. Randall | 1913-1921 |
| George W. Randall | 1921- |
| Frederick N. Belding | 1921-1945 |
| Frank A. Hardenbergh | 1946- |

Six (6) Secretaries:

| | |
|---|---|
| E. C. Chapman | 1870-1874 |
| E. Stevens Henry | 1874-1895 |
| S. A. Harrington | 1895-1914 |
| S. C. Millard | 1914-1923 |
| George W. Randall | 1923-1926 |
| J. Everett North | 1926- |

Three (3) Treasurers:

| | |
|---|---|
| E. Stevens Henry | 1870-1921 |
| George W. Randall | 1921-1929 |
| J. Everett North | 1929- |

and Two (2) Assistant Treasurers:

| | |
|---|---|
| J. Everett North | 1929- |
| Raymond W. Spurling | 1950- |

Many of the prominent business men of the City have served as Directors, among them the following: Alvah N. Belding, Samuel Fitch, William H. Prescott, Henry Adams, Thomas A. Lake, Francis T. Maxwell, C. E. Harwood, Dr. Thomas F. Rockwell, Edward White, John E. Fahey, A. Leroy Martin, Frederick J. Cooley, H. H. Larkum, John Kuhnly, Dennis J. McCarthy, William A. Howell, William N. Pinney, Frank A. Mann and William V. Sadlak. Of the above-mentioned, William N. Pinney still is living in the Pinney Homestead in Ellington, having retired as a Director several years ago.

At the end of the first year total assets of $30,833.81 were shown. In 1880, the end of the first ten years, the assets were $379,222.19, and in 1893 the half million mark was passed. The end of thirty years showed assets of $522,576.70, while in 1910 they were $957,294.14. Fifty years of successful banking showed assets of $2,089,412.48, and seventy-five years, $5,046,252.82. At the present time assets are over $7,000,500.00, and depositors number over 4,800.

During the 83-year period of its existence, no payment of interest to the depositors ever has been omitted, or deferred, the rates of interest paid having fluctuated with the conditions of the periods in which earned from as high as 6½% to as low as 2%, with 2¾% currently being paid. From 1917 until 1930 an annual rate of 5% was maintained, the Bank being one of the very few in the State that paid such a rate consistently.

The present Board of Directors is as follows: Donald C. Fisk, George Arnold, Jr., Frederick H. Holt, John P. Cameron, R. Leland Keeney, J. Everett North, Frank E. Hardenbergh, Roy C. Ferguson, John F. Dailey, Jr., John R. Gottier, John S. Mason, Paul B. Sweeney and Alfred W. Cavedon.

In addition to the active officers, the Bank's staff consists of Nettie A. Smith, Kenneth Merk and Nancy A. Gottier, with Angelo J. DeCarli acting as Janitor.

## THE ROCKVILLE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Rockville Building and Loan Association was organized November 20, 1889, and incorporated June 30, 1893.

INCORPORATORS:

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Park Hammond | Clayton E. Harwood |
| John P. Cameron | Wm. H. Prescott |
| Francis T. Maxwell | Wm. Rogers |
| Frank Rau | Oscar Penovsky |
| Geo. W. Brigham | Wm. Austin |

DIRECTORS:

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Park Hammond | Chas. E. Harris |
| E. E. Harwood | John P. Cameron |
| Wm. H. Prescott | Frank Keeney |
| Francis T. Maxwell | Geo. W. Brigham |
| B. F. Mellor | Wm. Rogers |
| Wm. Austin | A. Penovsky |
| Frank Rau | E. S. Heath |

William Maxwell

OFFICERS:

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Park Hammond | President |
| Chas. E. Harris | Vice-President |
| John P. Cameron | Secretary |
| Clayton E. Harwood | Treasurer |
| Martin Laubscher | Auditors |
| Geo. B. Hammond | |

At the beginning, the organization was a voluntary association, but later was brought under the control and supervision of the State. Meetings are held at the association's office in the Fitch block.

## THE TELEPHONE

The first successful telephone experiment in the United States was performed in Boston, Massachusetts, March 10, 1876. In the building at 109 Court Street, on the top floor, the historic words, "Mr. Watson, please come here, I want you!", were transmitted by Alexander Graham Bell, whose name is known throughout the world.

Bell was a teacher of the deaf at Boston University. During an experiment, searching for a way to help the deaf to hear, an accident occurred. Over an electric wire came a sound of varied intensity. With the vision that comes from special training, Bell quickly and excitedly recognized its possibilities, and soon after he made the world's first telephone.

Eight years later fifty-one telephones were in use in Rockville. The first telephone office is believed to have been opened in Sills Brothers Drug Store on Main Street by the Connecticut Telephone Company, a predecessor of The Southern New England Telephone Company, in May, 1882. The office was moved to 11 Park Place in 1886, and to 15 Park Place in 1888.

The town of Vernon's acceptance of the new invention was slow. In an effort to puncture their complacency, the editor of the Journal of October 22, 1881, issued this warning:

> "Thirty-five names only have been subscribed for the telephone exchange in this town. Fifty are wanted. The president of the company says that that number must be procured before anything will be attempted. It looks feasible to commence with 35 subscribers, but ex-Governor Jewett holds the ribbons, and will do as he thinks best."

Fifty-one responded to the appeal, but strangely enough by 1893 the number had declined to twenty-eight—count them—twenty-eight. Many expressed themselves volcanically, claiming that the introduction of the telephone would destroy the last vestige of home privacy. A telephone placed in Vernon Depot in the year 1883 at considerable expense proved a losing investment to a Mr. Tucker.

The office was moved to Room 6 of the Bank Building on Elm Street in 1893. Technical improvements of the next few years brought more business, and the number of telephones had in-

creased to nearly 800 by 1911, when common battery service was introduced to replace the old hand-cranked magneto telephones.

In 1915, the exchange had 1,000 telephones, and the 2,000 figure was reached in 1929.

The number of telephones in Rockville now stands at about 4,200. The exchange is served by an operating force of 22 people.

The number of calls per day has now reached 13,800 local calls and 1200 out-of-town calls. Soaring like a thermometer in mid-summer they have increasingly become bearers of life's friendly words and messages of high import to people everywhere.

Here is the official list of the first 51 subscribers in the

ROCKVILLE DIVISION
OF THE CONNECTICUT TELEPHONE COMPANY
STATE DIRECTORY FOR MAY, 1882:
Sill Brothers, Managers.

| | |
|---|---|
| Adams Express Company | Market |
| Adams, Henry, residence | Prospect |
| American Mills, mfrs. cassimere | Main |
| Aqueduct Company, office | Elm |
| Bank, First National | Park Place |
| Bank, Rockville National | Elm |
| Bank, Rockville Savings, with L. Bissell & Son | |
| Belding, A. N., residence | Talcott Ave. |
| Belding Bros., & Company, silk mfrs. | Main |
| Bissell, L. & Son, insurance agents | Park Place |
| Brigham, Geo. N., residence | Brooklyn |
| Brigham, Geo. N., postmaster, with Aqueduct Company | |
| Burr, B. L., residence | Union |
| Corbin, W. M., hardware | Main |
| Dickinson, A. P., hardware | Union |
| Doane, E. E., confectioner | West |
| Fitch, S. & Sons, stockinet mfrs. | Main |

| | |
|---|---|
| Fitton, C., residence | Union |
| Forbes, Rev. S. B., residence | Union |
| Gas Works | Maple |
| Gas Office, with Rock Mfg. Company | |
| Hammond, J. C., with Aqueduct Company | |
| Harvey, C., hotel | Park |
| Hockanum Company, mfrs. cassimere | Main |
| Journal Office | Main |
| Keeney Bros., grocers | Market |
| Leader Office | Market |
| Martin, W. B., wood yard and teaming | Prospect |
| Maxwell, Geo., residence | Union |
| New England Company, mfrs. cassimere | Vernon Ave. |
| Noble, S. T., residence | Union |
| Paulk, Geo. M., residence | Prospect |
| Paulk, Geo. M., lumber yard | Market |
| Payne, W. E., coal | Brooklyn |
| Pratt, T. S., residence | Elm |
| Ransom Bros., grocers | Market |
| Regan, J. J., residence | Prospect |
| Regan, J. J., mfr. flocks and shoddy | Main |
| Rock Mfg. Company, mfrs. cassimere | Main |
| Sill Bros., druggists | Main |
| Styles, E. L., M.D., residence | Park |
| Thrall, J. S., livery | Main |
| Townsend, Heber, druggist | Park Place |
| Tracy, E. W., market | Main |
| Western Union Telegraph Company | Market |
| White, Corbin & Co., envelope mfrs. | Main |
| White's Grist Mill | Brooklyn |
| White Mfg. Company,, mfrs. ginghams | Main |
| Willis Bros., coal and grain | Brooklyn |
| Wilson, James, dry goods | Park Place |
| Wolf, Aaron, hotel and livery | Brooklyn |

## ROCKVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

The Rockville Gas and Electric Company had its beginning in 1862 as the Rockville Gas Light Company. In 1890, when the Electric department was added, the name was changed to the Rockville and Ellington Street Railway Company, and in 1897, by a legislative act the present name was adopted. George Maxwell was the founder. The plant on Maple Street has been enlarged and a great many improvements have been made by the present owners, The Connecticut Light and Power Company.

## CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

Rockville became part of the Connecticut Light and Power Company formally on October 27, 1935, when the Rockville-Willimantic Lighting Company was merged into CL&P. For some five years previous, however, the Rockville company had been part of The Connecticut Electric Service Company which, in 1935, was also merged into CL&P.

The steel structure sub-station was added in 1939 at the same time that the 66,000 volt Rockville-Willimantic transmission line was built. In April, 1952, a second circuit to this line was put into operation; and in May, 1952, a second circuit of 27,600 volts was added to the Rockville-Warehouse Point line. The steel transmission towers leading into the sub-station were completed in 1952 as part of the job cited above.

In January, 1949, the transformer capacity of the sub-station was increased by about four times, when two 16,000 kva transformers replaced two 3,750 kva transformers. These recent additions were all necessary to supply greatly increased power requirements in the area.

## CONVALESCENT HOMES

The following Convalescent Homes are established in the town:

Green Lawn Convalescent Home, 62 Union Street, Rockville
Owner, Mrs. Marie Rhodes.

Hemlock Convalescent Home, 60 Prospect Street, Rockville
Owner, Mrs. Mary B. Calio.

The Ashland Convalescent Home, 60 South Street, Rockville
Owner, Mrs. Lydia B. Ashland.

Mrs. Grace G. Wilde Rest Home, 63 Brooklyn Street, Rockville
Owner, Mr. Elton E. Sperry, Tunnel Road, Vernon.

The Dennis Boarding Home, Tunnel Road, Vernon
Owner, Mrs. Catherine Dennis.

## NEWSPAPERS IN TOLLAND COUNTY

The first newspaper in Tolland County was "The National Examiner," and it lasted only one year. It was issued from the printing press of Clapp & Robbins, editors and proprietors, at Tolland, on Tuesday, February 10, 1830—a weekly paper of four pages and six columns.

Tolland at that time was the business center of the county. There were several stores, hotels, shops, manufacturing concerns, a bank, insurance office, an academy and churches.

At the end of the first year of publication, J. B. Clapp, the senior member of the firm, assisted by one J. Storrs, assumed full responsibility and radically changed the sentiment of the paper. Its pages were devoted to anti-Masonic propaganda at a time when such activity was at its height, and the anti-secret society forces throughout the country were up in arms against the Masonic organization. A few more issues, and "The National Examiner" never appeared again.

The second venture in Journalism was the "Tolland County Gazette," a weekly journal, independent in all things and neutral in politics, issued every Thursday. There were many local would-be poets in those days, and their original lines were printed. Eleven appeared in the first issue, and many more had to be declined. A copy of the "Gazette" for June 14, 1855, may be seen in the Rockville Public Library.

An interesting little paper, "The Ellington Star," was published occasionally by the boys of Mr. Barteau's School.

In 1858, "The Press" was started in Stafford by Fish & Goff, publishers of "The Farm" at Palmer, Massachusetts. The paper was printed at Palmer until 1862, when the Stafford editor, Mr. McLaughlin, bought the Stafford subscription list and removed the publishing office to Stafford Springs, where it was continued.

The "Tolland County Record" made its first appearance October 22, 1861, which was issued perhaps only a year. Curtis B. Wells of Springfield was the publisher, the editor James J. Gilfillan. Very shortly Gilfillan quietly folded his nutmeg tent and stole away to Washington, where he entered the Treasury Department, and finally became treasurer of the United States, 1877-1883.

In 1864 a hardware dealer, a certain Bissell, conducted a paper here, and about the same time a Mr. Whitaker issued one

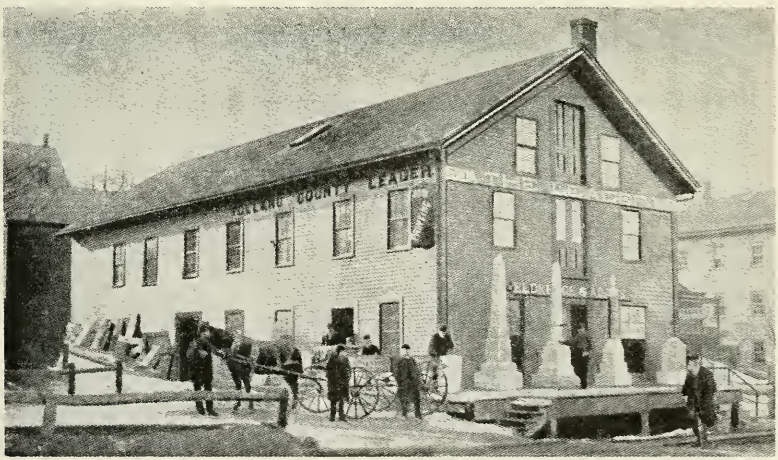
from the old Simpson Block. From this place, too, A. B. Warner started the "Tolland County News," which was sold out to J. A. Spaulding.

A copy of the "Tolland County Republican" for March 14, 1857, and a copy of the "Tolland County Herald" for October 20, 1864, are in the Rockville Public Library.

On February 7, 1867, the first number of the "Tolland County Journal" was issued. J. A. Spaulding was editor, owner and founder. The paper was a folio of seven columns, much wider than today's country paper. After five years it was enlarged to nine columns.

Spaulding continued ownership of the "Journal" until 1872, when J. N. Stickney and his son purchased it. Then in 1881 it came into the possession of Thomas S. Pratt. Under his management the paper was changed to the "Rockville Journal" in the year 1887. For several years the "Journal" was 29½ inches deep and 44½ inches wide.

Thomas Strong Pratt was the son of Rev. Stillman Pratt. He entered his father's printing business at the age of sixteen. He owned and published papers in Middleboro, Rockland, Newburyport, Boston and Marlboro, Massachusetts. He came to Rockville in the year 1881, and conducted the Journal printing plant for




TOLLAND COUNTY LEADER

twenty-four years. He purchased it from Arthur N. French, who had bought it only a short time before from J. N. Stickney & Company. He sold it to the Journal Publishing Company.

On May 9, 1876, B. L. Burr began the publication of "The Tolland County Gleaner," which was printed at the envelope works of White, Corbin & Company and which was small in size, one page being printed at a time. The Gleaner's office was in Skinner's Block on Market Street. In January, 1877, the paper was sold to Mr. Phillips, but in February, 1879, Mr. Burr and J. A. Byron bought the material but not the paper and started "The Tolland County Leader." This partnership was dissolved in 1888 with Mr. Burr continuing as proprietor until it was sold in October, 1897, to Rady and Brown. On February 24, 1898, the name of the paper was changed to "The Rockville Leader."

On December 2, 1890, a new Daily Paper—"The Daily Sentinel"—was issued from the Leader's office on a Monday afternoon. The new "Daily" was bright, newsy, and attractive. The publishers announced that it was published for revenue, and would be continued as long as it received the support of the citizens. The experiment soon came to an end.

Newspapers of early dates in Rockville Public Library:

| | |
|---|---|
| Connecticut Courant, Monday, | October 29, 1764 |
| Connecticut Courant, Monday, | 1777 |
| Tolland County Gazette | 1855 |
| Tolland County Republican | 1857 |
| Tolland County Herald | 1864 |
| Tolland County News | 1865 |
| Connecticut Courant | 1799 |
| Boston Gazette | 1770 |
| Independent Press, Hartford | 1834 |
| Hartford Weekly Post | 1861 |

Waterbury Globe, May 17, 1875, has this amusing comment on a busy Rockville reporter:

"There are daily newspapers in Connecticut that never go to press until Rockville has been heard from, and if a day should pass without a Rockville story from Mr. Foote, the subsequent anguish and distress would be fearful to contemplate."

## CLERKS OF COURT FOR TOLLAND COUNTY THROUGH THE YEARS

| | Date of Appointment |
|---|---|
| Ephraim Grant | June 6, 1786 |
| Elisha Stearns | April 1814 |
| Novatus Chapman | 1834 |
| Jeremiah Parish | 1836 |
| Joseph Bishop | 1851 |
| Erwin O. Dimock | 1877 |
| Lyman Twining Tingier | Sept. 1893 |
| Willis H. Reed | April 1920 |
| John H. Yeomans | July 1, 1952 |

## ROCKVILLE CITY JUDGES 1889-1955

| | |
|---|---|
| 1889 | None |
| 1890-1893 | Judge Gelon West; Associate Judge, George Talcott |
| 1893-1895 | Judge John A. Toohey; Assoc. Judge, George Talcott |
| 1895-1897 | Judge Benezet H. Bill; Assoc. Judge, George Talcott |
| 1897-1899 | Judge Benezet H. Bill; Assoc. Judge, Lester D. Phelps |
| 1899-1903 | Judge Lyman Twining Tingier; Assoc. Judge, Lester D. Phelps |
| 1903-1909 | Judge John E. Fisk; Assoc. Judge, Lester D. Phelps |
| 1909-1929 | Judge John E. Fisk; Assoc. Judge John E. Fahey |
| 1929-1933 | Judge John E. Fsk; Assoc. Judge, Edgar B. Dawkins |
| 1933-1939 | Judge John E. Fisk; Assoc. Judge, Thomas L. Larkin |
| 1939-1941 | Judge Thomas L. Larkin; Assoc. Judge, Nelson C. Read |
| 1941-1943 | Judge John N. Keeney; Assoc. Judge, Joseph F. Nash |
| 1943-1945 | Judge Lawrence M. Dillon; Assoc. Judge, Joseph F. Nash |
| 1945-1947 | Judge Thomas F. Rady; Assoc. Judge, Charles J. Underwood |
| 1947-1949 | Judge Charles J. Underwood; Assoc. Judge, Joseph F. Nash |
| 1949-1951 | Judge Saul L. Peizer; Assoc. Judge, Leon Neumann |
| 1951-1952 | Judge Saul L. Peizer; Assoc. Judge, Thomas L. Larkin |
| 1952-1955 | Judge Robert J. Pigeon, Assoc. Judge, Thomas L. Larkin |

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Increasingly Efficient and Competent

Rockville has been exceedingly fortunate in the choice of her Captains from the beginning:

Captain W. H. Cady served from April 1, 1890, until his death June 30, 1907.

Captain Edward J. Kane, July 31, 1907, to his death July 29, 1910.

Captain Leopold Krause, September 20, 1910, to his retirement on September 30, 1919.

Captain Stephen J. Tobin, October 1, 1919, to his death September 28, 1932.

Captain Richard Shea, November 7, 1932, to his death August 26, 1936.

Captain Peter J. Dowgewicz, appointed November 1, 1936, still in office at the end of the year 1955.

At the present time the Police Department consists of: Captain; Sergt; 6 Patrolmen; 1 Meterman; and 10 Supernumeraries; Police Clerk and 5 School Traffic Policemen; Also 2 police cruisers, and base radio station to cruiser.

## LIST OF TOWN OFFICIALS FROM 1808

1808
Selectmen—Cornelius Roberts, Oliver Hunt, Lemuel King.
Town Clerk—Oliver King. Town Treasurer—Oliver King.

1809
Selectmen—Cornelius Roberts, Oliver Hunt, Lemuel King.
Town Clerk—Oliver King. Town Treasurer—Oliver King.

1810
Same

1811
Same

1812
Same

1813
Same

1814
Selectmen—Lemuel King, Lebbeus P. Tinker, Francis McLean.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Oliver King.

1815
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver Hunt, Daniel Daniels.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1816
Selectmen—Oliver Hunt, Francis McLean, Oliver H. King.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1817
Selectmen—Oliver Hunt, Francis McLean, Oliver H. King.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1818
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver King, Delano Abbot.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1819
Selectmen—Col. Francis McLean, Cap. Oliver H. King, Delano Abbot.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1820
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver H. King, Delano Abbot.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1821
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver H. King, Delano Abbot.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1822
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver H. King, Thomas W. Kellogg.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1823
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver H. King, Thomas W. Kellogg.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1824
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver H. King, Thomas W. Kellogg.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1825
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Erastus M. Kinney, Joel King.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1826
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Joel King, Delano Abbot.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1827
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver King, Delano Abbot.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1828
Selectmen—Francis McLean, Oliver H. King, Thomas W. Kellogg.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1829
Selectmen—Oliver H. King, Oliver Hunt, Roderick Walker.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1830
Selectmen—Oliver H. King, Roderick Walker, Alfred Roberts.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1831
Selectmen—Roderick Walker, Alfred Roberts, Josiah Hammond.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1832
Selectmen—Josiah Hammond, Samuel S. Talcott, Harry W. Miner.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1833
Selectmen—Samuel S. Talcott, Sanford Grant, Willard Fuller.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1834
Selectmen—Samuel S. Talcott, Sanford Grant, Willard Fuller.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1835
Selectmen—Sanford Grant, Willard Fuller, Allen Hammond.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1836
Selectmen—Allen Hammond, Samuel S. Talcott, Ralph Talcott.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1837
Selectmen—Samuel S. Talcott, Ralph Talcott, Burt McKinney.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1838
Selectmen—Burt McKinney, Asa Fuller, Abel Driggs, Jr.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1839
Selectmen—Abel Driggs, Jr., Samuel S. Talcott, Alonzo Bailey.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1840
Selectmen—Alonzo Bailey, Chester White, John Chapman, Jr.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1841
Selectmen—Alonzo Bailey, Chester White, John Chapman, Jr.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1842
Selectmen—Alonzo Bailey, Chester White, John Chapman, Jr.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.
1843
Selectmen—Chester White, John Chapman, Jr., Benjamin Talcott.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1844
Selectmen—John Chapman, Jr., Benjamin Talcott, Elisha Pember.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1845
Selectmen—John Chapman, Jr., Benjamin Talcott (Voted that the Selectmen be but two.)
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Lebbeus P. Tinker.

1846
Selectmen—John Chapman, Jr., Benjamin Talcott, Elisha Pember.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Oliver H. King.

1847
Selectmen—Benjamin Talcott 2, Elisha Pember 3, Chester White 1.
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Oliver H. King.

1848
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Oliver H. King.
Selectmen—Elisha Pember, Benjamin Talcott, Francis McLean, Jr.

1849
Town Clerk & Treasurer—Oliver H. King.
Selectmen—Phineas Talcott, Josiah Hammond, Thaddeus C. Bruce.

1850
Clerk & Treasurer—Phineas Talcott.
Selectmen—Thaddeus C. Bruce, Alonzo Bailey, Asa Fuller.

1851
Clerk & Treasurer—Phineas Talcott.
Selectmen—Allyu Talcott, Alonzo Bailey, Asa Fuller.

1852
Clerk & Treasurer—Phineas Talcott.
Selectmen—Allyu Talcott, Stanley White, Horace Taylor.

1853
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis McLean, Jr.
Selectmen—Ira Thrall, Harlow K. Grant, A. C. Crosby.

1854
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis McLean, Jr.
Selectmen—Chauncey Winchell, Frederick Walker, Francis Keeney.

1855
Clerk & Treasurer—Benezet H. Bill.
Selectmen—Ira Thrall, Miner Preston, Henry Selden.

1856
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—A. K. Talcott, Henry Deldeu, Dudley T. Miner.

1857
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—E. S. Hurlburt, C. D. Talcott, Albert Dart.

1858
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Phineas Talcott, Asa Fuller, Isaac Chester.

1859
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Joseph Selden, Stephen G. Risley, George W. Sparks.

1860
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Phineas Talcott, George W. Sparks, Isaac Chester.

1861
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Isaac Chester, John S. Dobson, Harvey King.
1862
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Isaac Chester, Phineas Talcott, Albert Dart.
1863
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Isaac Chester, Albert Dart, George Kellogg, Jr.
1864
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Albert Dart, George Kellogg, Jr., C. A. Corbin.
1865
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Ryal G. Holt, Charles A. Corbin, George M. Paulk.
1866
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—William R. Orcutt, Hubbard Tucker, Nathaniel R. Grant.
1867
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Lewis A. Corbin, Alfred R. Talcott, F. B. Little.
1868
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—Albert Dart, Chester S. Hunt, George Talcott.
1869
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—George Talcott, Ira Thrall, Nathaniel R. Grant.
1870
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—John G. Bailey, Frederick Walker, Nathaniel R. Grant.
1871
Clerk & Treasurer—Moses B. Bull.
Selectmen—William R. Orcutt, Ira Thrall, William Butler.
1872
Clerk & Treasurer—Charles P. Thompson
Selectmen—William R. Orcutt, William Butler, Ira Thrall.
1873
Clerk & Treasurer—Charles P. Thompson
Selectmen—William R. Orcutt, William Butler, Ira Thrall.
1874
Clerk & Treasurer—Charles P. Thompson
Selectmen—William R. Orcutt, Ira Thrall, James Fitzgerald.
1875
Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—William R. Orcutt, August Hemmann, Ryal G. Holt.
1876
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—William R. Orcutt, Smith S. Talcott, August Hemmann.
1877
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—George Talcott, Smith S. Talcott, Henry Burke.
1878
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—George Talcott, Smith S. Talcott, Lawrence Young.

1879
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—George Talcott, Elisha H. Lathrop, Bradley M. Sears.
1880
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—Francis L. Dickinson, Maro Hammond, James Fitzgerald.
1881
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—George Talcott, Nathaniel R. Grant, James Fitzgerald.
1882
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Charles P. Thompson.
Selectmen—James Fitzgerald, Elam O. Allen, George Talcott.
1883
Clerk, Treasurer and Registrar—Gelon W. West.
Selectmen—James Fitzgerald, Edgar Kenney, Elam O. Allen.
1884
Clerk, Treasurer and Registrar—Gelon W. West.
Selectmen—James Fitzgerald, Edgar Kenney, Ryal G. Holt.
1885
Clerk, Treasurer and Registrar—Gelon W. West.
Selectmen—James Fitzgerald, Edgar Kenney, Harry T. Miner.
1886
Clerk, Treasurer and Registrar—Gelon W. West.
Selectmen—James Fitzgerald, Edgar Kenney, Henry G. Ransom.
1887
Clerk, Treasurer and Registrar—Gelon W. West.
Selectmen—Henry G. Ransom, Edward A. Kuhnly, Philip Kramer.
1888
Clerk, Treasurer and Registrar—Gelon W. West.
Selectmen—Harry T. Miner, Orren C. West, Lawrence Young.
1889
Clerk, Treasurer and Registrar—Gelon W. West.
Selectmen—Orren C. West, Lawrence Young, John Wagner.
1890
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Orren C. West, Lawrence Young, Harry T. Miner.
1891
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Amasa P. Dickinson, Harry T. Miner, Lawrence Young.
1892
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Amasa P. Dickinson, Frank R. Rau, Andrew J. Cavanaugh.
1893
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Amasa P. Dickinson, Frank R. Rau, Charles Tennert.
1894
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Amasa P. Dickinson, Parley B. Leonard, Charles Leonard.
1895
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—John E. Fahey, Parley B. Leonard, Charles Tennert.
1896
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—John E. Fahey, Parley B. Leonard, Andrew J. Cavanaugh.

1897
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, F. Romaine Tucker, Edgar Keeney.
1898
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, F. Romaine Tucker, Dwight F. Lull.
1899
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, F. Romaine Tucker, Frederick J. Cooley.
1900
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, F. Romaine Tucker, Andrew J. Cavanaugh.
1901
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Charles W. Bradley, Andrew J. Cavanaugh.
1902
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Charles W. Bradley, George D. Goodrich.
1903
Clerk, Treasurer & Registrar—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard Paul Brache, Frederick J. Cooley.
1904
Clerk, Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Paul Brache, John H. Zimmerman.
1905
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Paul Brache, George D. Goodrich.
1906
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Paul Brache, William Stafford.
1907
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Paul Brache, John H. Zimmerman.
1908
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Paul Brache, John H. Zimmerman.
1909
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Parley B. Leonard, Paul Brache, John H. Zimmerman.
1910
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Frederick J. Cooley, John H. Zimmerman, Frank P. Robertson.
1911
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Frank P. Robertson, Frederick J. Cooley, John H. Zimmerman.
1912
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Frank P. Robertson, Frank R. Rau, John H. Zimmerman.
1913
Clerk & Treasurer—Francis B. Skinner.
Selectmen—Frank P. Robertson, Frank R. Rau, Thomas F. Farrell.

1914
Asst. Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Frank R. Rau, Frank P. Robertson, Arno Weber.
1915
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Frank R. Rau, Dwight B. Gardner, Orrin C. West.
1916
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Frederick J. Cooley, Frank R. Rau, Dwight B. Gardner.
1917
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Charles M. Squires, Frank R. Rau, F. J. Cooley.
1918
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Charles M. Squires, Frank R. Rau, Thomas Farrell.
1919
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Charles M. Squires, Frank R. Rau, Thomas Farrell.
1920
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Charles M. Squires, George Arnold, Jr., Earl C. Northrop.
1921
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Charles M. Squires, George Arnold, Jr., James F. Costello.
1922
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Charles M. Squires, George Arnold, Jr., Joseph Lavitt.
1923
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Charles M. Squires, George Arnold, Jr., James F. Costello.
1924
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—George Arnold, Jr., N. Morgan Strong, James F. Costello.
1925
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—George Arnold, Jr., N. Morgan Strong, Christopher E. Jones.
1926
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—George Arnold, Jr., N. Morgan Strong, Robert P. Reynolds.
1927
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—George Arnold, Jr., N. Morgan Strong, Robert P. Reynolds.
1928
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Francis J. Prichard, Orlando Ransom, Robert P. Reynolds.
1929
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Francis J. Prichard, Orlando Ransom, Robert P. Reynolds.
1930
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Francis J. Prichard, Orlando Ransom, John McKenna.
1931
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Francis J. Pritchard, Orlando Ransom, Arthur J. Morin.

1932
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Francis J. Prichard, Orlando Ransom, Frederick J. Foley.
1933
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Francis J. Prichard, Orlando Ransom, Max J. Schmidt.
1934
Clerk & Treasurer—John B. Thomas.
Selectmen—Francis J. Prichard, Orlando Ransom, Robert P. Reynolds.
1935
Clerk & Treasurer—Frederick G. Hartenstein.
Selectmen—Frederick J. Cooley, Herbert F. Krause, William J. Dunlap.
1936
Clerk & Treasurer—Frederick G. Hartenstein.
Selectmen—F. J. Cooley, Herbert F. Krause, William J. Dunlap.
1937
Clerk & Treasurer—Frederick G. Hartenstein.
Selectmen—George C. Sheets, Herbert F. Krause, Agustus M. Burke.
1938
Clerk & Treasurer—Frederick G. Hartenstein.
Selectmen—George C. Sheets, Herbert F. Krause, Agustus M. Burke.
1939
Clerk & Treasurer—Arthur E. Hayward.
Selectmen—Ernest A. Schindler, Kerwin A. Elliott, Arthur J. Guzman.
1940
Clerk & Treasurer—Arthur E. Hayward.
Selectmen—Ernest A. Schindler, Kerwin A. Elliott, Arthur J. Guzman.
1941
Clerk & Treasurer—Arthur E. Hayward.
Selectmen—Ernest A. Schindler, Kerwin A. Elliott, Christopher E. Jones.
1943
Clerk & Treasurer—Arthur E. Hayward.*
Selectmen—Ernest A. Schindler, Kerwin A. Elliott, Christopher E. Jones.
1945
Clerk & Treasurer—Kerwin A. Elliott.
Selectmen—Ernest A. Schindler, Vincent F. Jordan, John Rorup.
1947
Clerk & Treasurer—Kerwin A. Elliott.
Selectmen—Ernest A. Schindler, Vincent F. Jordan, John Rorup.

---

*Died Sept. 30, 1944. Kerwin A. Elliott appointed, by Board of Selectmen, to fill unexpired term to Jan. 1, 1946. Before appointed, Elliott resigned from Board of Selectmen and Jordan was appointed to fill the vacancy.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

When this work was begun I publicly expressed the hope that it would be "not my book, but our book." That hope has now been fully realized. Many Rockville people have contributed to the historical value of "our" book, and I am very grateful.

Three people have given an extraordinary amount of their time to the work, and I must mention their names: John N. Keeney, Joseph McCusker, and Kenneth Brookes.

Of course, I acknowledge the cooperation of the members of the Town Committee who were made responsible for the publication of the book: Herman G. Olson, chairman; Edith M. Peck, Gertrude Fuller, John N. Keeney, Joseph McCusker, Clifford B. Knight, Franklin G. Wells.

G. S. B.

## TOMORROW

We have come to the end of a difficult task; etching the face of yesterday. In it have been drawn the strong lines of courage and adventure; of laughter and sorrow; of adaptability and ingenuity; of success and failure; of work and play. No one can look upon this face of yesterday and fail to see in it the features of true nobility.

But what of the face of tomorrow? Will it be greatly changed? We think not. A man's character does not change much between yesterday and today, or between today and tomorrow. Nor does the character of a town or city. The story of Vernon and Rockville continues without a break. Out of the past have come the materials for tomorrow's story. Time cannot really be divided into past, present and future. It is one.

Some will call this the story of mills and factories, of industries and manufacturing. And, in a way, that is what it is. It tells of the birth and slow development of the textile industry in a New England town that achieved a world wide reputation for its woolen, cotton and silk products. It shows how the town grew up around these same mills, depending upon them for life, as well as supplying all the needs of workers and their families. It tells, sadly, of the death of this single industry, and of the near-death of the town. It was a death for which the bells could not toll. Those of us who have lived many years here, remember the awful silence when one by one the mills closed. We missed the bells! For years, they had called the men from refreshment to labor, and what glad bells they were. The old Saxony Mill on West Street had a bell made by Doolittle, Hartford Company upon which was inscribed the date, 1739. Another, made by the same company, and bearing the date of 1840, rang cheerfully in the tower of the Phoenix Mill. Now their tongues were all still. We believed that the silence was not for long. Then came the stunning announcement that the mills would remain closed permanently. That was a blow as cruel as permanent disability to many men who had worked in the same factory, at the same job, from their youth. Some, of course, found other employment as skilled workmen, but many were too far advanced in years to secure a new type of work.

Almost a hundred years ago, a skilful mechanic by the name

of Albert Dart built a huge water wheel, 55 feet in diameter, supplying power to three large mills, though everyone said that it couldn't be done. Albert Dart was more than an ingenious mechanic; he knew something also about how and why a town continues to live and grow. He believed that a diversity of business was essential to the permanent welfare of a community. He made this generous offer: "To any party wishing to establish in Rockville a new branch of a paying business, which will give employment to 100 operatives, I will give necessary grounds for building and furnish 50 horse power, free, for a term of years." The silence of the bells in Rockville is a testimony to Albert Dart's wisdom, a mute reminder of his rejected generosity, and a quiet warning for tomorrow's industrial pattern.

Some may call this the story of organized community life; of societies and agencies; of churches and schools. And, in a way, that is what it is. It tells how a group of people living beside a lovely cascading stream learned to play and study and worship together. It tells, not as fully as we wish, how they enriched their lives in cultural pursuits and in fraternal helpfulness. We wish that we might have devoted a chapter to the many societies and clubs and lodges that made Rockville's life gay and fascinating. The very multitude of them, however, made it impossible to do all of them justice. Our Masonic Lodge, for example, has an ancient history that reaches back almost to the beginning of the town, yet it would be unfair to relate its story without also paying tribute to the other influential fraternal orders. We thought it wisest to omit them all.

The real story that we have told, however, is not one of factories and mills, and not one of clubs and societies. It is a story of people, men and women who found themselves beside the falling waters of a beautiful lake, and who with imagination and courage harnessed its power. They dared adventure into new areas of productivity. Ingenuity, imagination, courage and daring are the real heroes of our story. Without these the face of yesterday would be sad indeed.

Nothing has really changed. Tomorrow's historian will write about manufacturing and societies, mills and churches, enterprises and schools. There will be new processes and different products. But his heroes will be the same as ours—imagination, ingenuity, courage and daring.

There is plenty of evidence that these qualities have not departed from the banks of the Hockanum.

The following news item from the "Rockville Journal" of May 11, 1955, is a good illustration:

> ROCKVILLE, May 11—Confidence in the New England textile industry—at a low ebb after being plagued by strikes, southward migration and shutdowns—was given a boost today. The American Dyeing Corp. here announced that it will begin construction on a new $500,000 plant.
>
> Expected to be ready late this year, the modern structure will provide 110,000 square feet for operations. It will bring with it a doubling of the firm's working force, from 200 to 400.
>
> The company finishes, dyes and prints rayons and acetates, both pure and in blends with cotton and wool. Recent developments in the newer synthetics, nylon, dacron and orlon, have made the expansion necessary.
>
> The building, designed by the Barnes Textile Associates, Kane and Fairehild, architects, and company officials, will be the first new textile plant of modern design to be built in Connecticut in many years. It will house expanded laboratory and testing facilities and permit redistribution of existing operations at the factory.

The Connecticut State Register and Manual of 1954 lists the following principal industries of the town of Vernon: "agriculture and manufacture of envelopes, greeting cards, paper boxes, dyeing and finishing of fabrics, wireless transmitters, tape recorders, military equipment, woodworking, paint." Here is a diversity of business that would gladden the heart of Albert Dart! The building of new homes in every section of the town is evidence of a new confidence in the future. Two new elementary schools, efficient and beautiful in their appointments, have been built to care for the educational needs of a growing population. A projected new million dollar high school will scarcely be ready in time for its eager multitude of students.

The spirit of Samuel Grant may rest in peace, for the courage, vision and industry of the early settlers still live beside the cascading water of Lake Mishenispsit.

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